

# SEVEN DAYS

Will young feminists follow **Madeleine Kunin's** road map for revolution?

ENOUGH  
IS  
ENOUGH

## What Women Want Now

BY KATHRYN PLADD PEEBLES



**JUST SAY NO?**

PAGE 30  
Canadian nuke generates concern



**HANDS ON DECK**

PAGE 32  
DJ Fattie II's 25 years



**DINING DIARIES**

PAGE 40  
Restaurant Week reviews

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### CORRECTIONS

Last week's story "Spurs to Rome," about the recent workplace modernization project at National Life Group in Montpelier, misreported the percentage of affected employees. The effort — a pilot project in National Life's IT department — has not been implemented companywide, as was incorrectly reported last week.

A list of local theater companies is in the cover story, "Setting the Stage," left at least one out, Girls Nite Out Productions. Launched in 2010 with *Steel Magnolias*, the group produces an annual show. Next up is *The Odd Couple/Wrecking Mission*, October 4-7 at Burlington's Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center.

I wish the authors had chosen to delve under the surface. After all, there is so much more to this story than the price of a chess ticket.

Klaus Mollenhuth  
P.O. Box 10407, 10774 Berlin

GO WITH THE FLOW

[Re "Duke Needs," April 25] I am a 52-year-old man who grew up paddling and mooring in the Temagami area of Canada. My children joined me when they were 5 and 8 years old, respectively. Now my eldest son is 21 and teaches wilderness canoeing as the boys encouraged in the article do. Every year I paddle and sing. It is never too late to have a happy childhood.

Karl Anderson  
AST @ BUNNENCK, NJ



GET OUT.JDF

Joe Upton: wants Vermont police to racially profile citizens because, in his imagination, South Central L.A. residents drug-lighten-skinned people from their cars and brutally murder them [Foodless, April 28]. And that's getting real? That's your level? We should turn off the TV and meet new kinds of people. He might discover that having a free society isn't as bad as he thinks.

David Wells  
EDITOR

### SIGNIFIED DISRUPTION

When I read Andy Ream's *Five Game: Dysfunction Junctions*, April 25, I was surprised to see that he was echoing many of my own thoughts about what occurred several weeks ago at the Statehouse. In writing the Vermont state constitution, its authors foresaw the need to create strategic safety values in the rules process so that

## WEEK IN REVIEW

affirm minority interests a chance against those with more power. Sen. [Hinda] Miller's membership proposal is an example of one of these minority protections, and her actions were within the bounds of the legislative process.

And yes, it's correct to point that out, and I was really glad that he discussed at length his [philosophy] there; his comments about the legislative process, his comments about some of the most interesting on the floor and brought attention to the floor to the fact that Sen. Miller was not actually there. I think that's a very important point. I'm frustrated that the South West District bill did not make it to the Senate floor, yet another legislative session, Sen. Miller employed creative legislative tactics in order to serve his constituents who had been waiting years for this debate to take place regardless. His rules were broken, and the discussion on the floor took place within the rules — just not in the typical fashion that Vermont senators are accustomed to. I think that's a very important point of discussion was used to break Vermont's

Lydia Lukyanov  
EUGENE, OREGON

GOAT GOTTEN

As a longtime reader, I found your site an altogether more stimulating experience. Alice Levitt's "Giving Your Goat" [April 14] reaches heights that no other Dadsque in their insanity "blatantly vegetated." One is either a vegetable or not, it's an either/or proposition. "Just pet pets," produce excellent meat!" I note and wonder that Americans are now raising their pets, but apparently this is a trend. The right-wing media are full of it, the same thing the president's lie dog in a chain, in another country I knew I was listening to my dog bark for a reason.

Michael Morgan  
ESSAY JURY CHAIR

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SEVEN DAYS

SEVEN DAYS



## MAGNIFICENT 7

MUST SEE MUST DO THIS WEEK

COMPILED BY CAROLYN FOX

## THURSDAY 3

## Grape Escape

Brooklyn Vinyards' 2013 10 Music on the Left Concert Series comes to a close on Thursday as the Zimborian band takes music — and whatever is in its way — by storm — with heart felt folk, wine inspired by the glass. American Flatheads' mobile oven will be onsite and certain prewalks go to MIPA-VT.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 38

## SATURDAY 5

## Pint Size

Woodbury has outgrown its parking lot. In its third year, the cask Festival — and Three Pines Tavern anniversary celebration — spills out to Langdon Street. (Event, Black party, free.) There's a glass to be music, grilled food, signs, and the spirit of Vermont festival season.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 38

SATURDAY 5  
& SUNDAY 6

## Fleece Out

Where it all swilling over when it's safe to pack away our winter coats, but leaving a Farm & Nursery's Southwesterners are shedding their woolies now for good this week. *Wool and Woolly Weekend* features sheep shearing, fiber demonstrations and bender quilts sheepdogs in action. All it's making it back.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 38

## SATURDAY 5

## Night Writer

"You don't have to know about Jim McInnes's background to know that these songs were all probably written on one-up music in the middle of the night, and history tells us that's where the best ones come from," writes Haverstick here. The 50-odd songs McInnes put his all night to the test at Haverstick's Dining Parlor on Saturday.

SEE MUSIC SPECIAL ON PAGE 34

## WEDNESDAY 9

## Family Matters

Last winter 18-year-old **Jack** **Wade** addressed the Iowa House Judiciary Committee in support of same-sex marriage. Almost immediately his speech became a YouTube sensation. Now he's back on the spot, right with a second-time marriage. My Two Horses: Lessons of Love, Strength and What Makes a Family. He discusses the book — and the issues still at hand — at She Bunsen Flying in Bookstore.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 37

## everything else...

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MUSIC	→	P.62
ART	→	P.30
MOVIES	→	P.35

## ONGOING

## Being Human

By finding perceived fiction with accuracy I moved human experience," writes **Oliver Schenck** of his sculptures. That explains the artists' eclectic body of work, which ranges from a torso of our species to machine inspired music makers. Take a look at Colchester State College's Christine Price Gills or the subject of 11th-level gallery push.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 10 AND ART LISTING ON PAGE 15

## SATURDAY 5

## Back to the Future

Has the Hunger Games piqued your curiosity about dystopian futures in cinema? **Eric Long** was ahead of his time with 1953's *Rebel Without a Cause*. Explore a rich medley of sci-fi, underground fiction, and models. New Hampshire director **Jeff** **Boggs** compares the sci-fi novel against with live, on-foot panel discussions at the support of two theaters' *Rebel* circles in location.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 37

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FAIR GAME OPEN SESSION ON VERMONT POLITICS BY ANDY SHADASH



## Laws and Disorder

In a few short days, hubbub at the Statehouse will sharply subside and 180 lawmakers will return home to their districts to campaign for reelection. A few retiring politicians will efficiently enter their post-legislative golden years.

When state lawmakers descended on Montpelier four months ago, much of Vermont was still suffering from the effects of Tropical Storm Irene. Publications of all stripes said the second half of the 2014-15 session would be about one thing: rebuilding. With that kind of unifying message, it seemed as if the session would be one big—and boring—fix-it fest with a “kamikaze” roundtable.

But by the end, it was more like “Gunsy Train,” with a backlog of important bills and the Senate going off the rails.

So when did our esteemed governor and legislators—most of whom want you to give them two more years—actually accomplish over the past biennium? A lot. And not a lot. Some of the most controversial bills—a philosophical exemption for childhood vaccines, at least just one—were still unaddressed as of press time.

Seems that for everything that got done, something equally important lay by the wayside. Here's a selective list of bills signed into law in the past two years—the highlights, lowlights and “grow higher” of the 2014-15 session.

- Vermont is on the road to universal health care. First step: a health care exchange that will share/allow thousands of Vermonters to shop for health care the way we shop for serif—on an Epicure-style search engine. Great. I can't wait to see what the medical version of a red-eye host is like.

- Vermonters (on one recent attorney's list) they say the state for public records and who. This, a summer study committee is reviewing more than 200 contributions to the public records act—over a three-year period. Wouldn't want to make it or anything.

- Killing and snowboarding are now Vermont's official winter sport. Better back seat time, carpal.

- Three giant birds—owl, pheasant and partridge—were removed from the list of poultry birds subject to slaughter inspection by the state. Remind me to order the duck next time.

- Vermont is officially on record—in or at least the legislature is—for calling on Congress to amend the U.S. Constitution.

to undo the democracy-eroding Citizens United campaign finance ruling. Meanwhile, statewide campaign finance reform went nowhere, meaning Vermont's officeholders can still gorge themselves at the corporate-donation trough.

- After 245 years of confusion, it took an act of the legislature to finally resolve the tangle between Shelburne and St. George. Considering that, it's a minor miracle they can redistrict the entire state every 10 years.

- Vermont now has criminal penalties for human trafficking and a program of services for victims. Meanwhile, the feds are unraveling a prostitution ring that was trafficking women from New York City to service workers on Vermont farms.

BY THE END, THE  
LEGISLATIVE SESSION WAS  
MORE LIKE “CRAZY TRAIN,”  
WITH A BACKLOG OF IMPORTANT  
BILLS AND THE SENATE GOING  
OFF THE RAILS.

- Medical-marijuana patients will now have a safe and legal place to obtain their medicine, thanks to a dispensary bill passed last year. People sick with AIDS, cancer and MS were bereft—able to grow it—or buy it on the black market. Meanwhile, legislation to decriminalize possession of two ounces or less of pot went up in smoke.

- Lawmakers could have passed a bill granting Vermont donor's licenses to migrant lawmakers, many of them here illegally. Instead, they punted to a summer study committee, which will navigate the road to licensure by next January. Sorry, Joe and Rod—you'll just have to keep visiting these 20 miles to the doctor's office.

### The Big Bloop-er

He's been called “the constitutional terror of Tette House” and “public enemy No. 1 for far elections.” He's the lawyer behind Citizens United, the infamous “corporations are people” case, and he's spent a 30-year legal career challenging—and overturning—state election laws around the country.

On Monday, JAMES BOPP JR. appeared in a Vermont courtroom to argue for throwing out what remains of Vermont's already-weakened campaign finance regulations. A white-haired lawyer from Indiana, he's representing the conservative Vermont Right to Life Committee in a lawsuit against the state, filed in August 2009, that finally came to a hearing on Sunday judgment: *Vermonter Bopp's lawsuit seeks to strike down state law so that political contributors can raise money without disclosing their donors, and reveals without saying who paid for them.*

It's a complex First Amendment case that state lawyers say could also effectively permit the existence of Vermont-level Super PACs—a political committee that can raise and spend unlimited sums to support or oppose candidates, while keeping secret the identities of their backers.

Presiding over Monday's hearing was U.S. District Judge WILLIAM C. KATZMAN II, who granted Bopp summary. The two are practically old friends—or maybe old enemies.

This case is the third campaign-finance lawsuit Bopp has brought against Vermont since 1997—all before Judge Sessions attended the second one he'd squared off against Assistant Attorney General JACOB CARANAH, who argued the state's case at Monday's hearing.

In the famously named 1997 case of *Vermont Right to Life Committee v. State* (that would be Attorney General MAH SHERIDAN), Bopp persuaded a federal appeals court to declare Vermont's main election disclosure rules unconstitutional, prompting the legislature to change the law. His next lawsuit, *Randell v. Sherrell*, went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which in 2006 struck down Vermont's strict-in-the-campaign campaign spending laws.

So what does mean of Bopp here against the land of any milk and honey, anyway? Nothing in particular. Bopp says pretty much every state that imposes what he believes are “onerous” campaign finance restrictions on groups such as Vermont Right to Life. Bopp says he presently has three dozen campaign finance lawsuits in the courts.

“It's kind of a shotgun approach,” Jacobs-Caranah observes. “He puts all these cases out there all around the country and, wherever he likes a decision, he pushes it further.” That might



# Treasurer Beth Pearce Fell Into the Job — Can She Win an Election to Keep It?

BY PAUL HEINTZ

**S**he's one of Vermont's top-ranked officials, but that doesn't mean you've heard of her. You've certainly never cast a vote for her.

Picked out of political obscurity in December 2010 to serve as state treasurer, Beth Pearce has spent the past year and a half adjusting to a few new roles: state banker boss, politician. This year she's adjusting to yet another one: candidate for election.

Until recently, Pearce says, "I've taken more of a second seat, second chair in most of my career."

That all changed when Pearce, a longtime deputy to then-treasurer Jeb Spaulding, got a call shortly after the November 2010 election. At the time, she was at home in Borne recovering from foot surgery.

"Jeb called me up and said, 'I've gotta talk to you,'" Pearce recalls. "I said, 'Well, you know, the house is a mess and I'm keeping around, but come on by.'"

Spaulding had some news for Pearce. Though he had just won his fifth two-year term as state treasurer, he was resigning to take a job as a top staffer to governor-elect Peter Shumlin. What's more, Spaulding had asked Pearce into appointing Pearce to replace him as treasurer.

According to Spaulding, Shumlin "was persuaded that the state of Vermont would benefit by having someone of her caliber in the office and took her at her word she would take seriously the responsibility of running a legitimate campaign for election."

David Coates, a retired KPMG managing partner and conservative political leader, says it was remarkable that Shumlin chose Pearce. He could have picked any one of a number of established pals.

"He was hedged with people who wanted that position — some who are in the legislature now," Coates says. "He went for competence, and I give him high marks for that."

Pearce certainly doesn't fit the mold of a politically astute, savvy state-wide officeholder in Vermont. Typically lower-ranking constitutional officers — treasurer, secretary of state, attorney general, auditor and lieutenant governor



Beth Pearce

— do their time, rely on experienced deputies and then run for higher office. Not so with Pearce.

"I think the best state treasurers are those who are not using the position as a political stepping stone," Spaulding says. "I can't imagine Beth is aspiring to run for any other office. I think she was born to be state treasurer."

Coates, who serves on several state boards with Pearce, agrees. "The treasurer's office shouldn't be about politics. It should be about

competence — and she brings an extraordinary amount of competence to that office," he says. "She's so darn good financially and understands all of the aspects of what it takes to be treasurer."

Though a neophyte to elected office, Pearce has politics in her blood. Born and raised in West Springfield, Mass., Pearce and a twin sister were the eldest of five children in a family deeply embedded in local politics. Her grandmother campaigned for women's voting rights. Her father,

a Western Union manager, served on the select and school boards and ran unsuccessfully for state Senate in 1950.

"When I would go down the street as a kid, people would stop and say, 'Your grandmother helped me with this, your dad helped me with this, your mother did this,'" she says. "That was a heritage I was proud of."

A younger sister got involved in Democratic politics and a brother became a political consultant, but Pearce spent most of her career as a financial professional in local and state government, eventually serving as a deputy state treasurer in Massachusetts. When her boss, Sharon O'Brien, left office after losing a gubernatorial race to a guy named Mitt Romney, Pearce applied to be Spaulding's No. 2 in Vermont.

Spaulding says he was struck by the first half of Pearce's email address, ECAFTR.

"It was Elizabeth, C-A-F-E-R, which stands for Comprehensive Annual Financial Report," Spaulding says. "That's still her personal email address. She's just into the mechanics of state finance. I thought that email address said a lot about her."

It doesn't take long for Pearce to admit the obvious during an interview in her Montpelier office — a *drab room* on the fourth floor of the Pavilion, some office building, decorated with Van Gogh prints and overlooking the east entrance of the Statehouse.

"I'm a girl. I'm absolutely a girl," she says. "I love talking to actresses. I joke that at parties I'll graduate to actresses, which is not something most people would do."

Pearce takes a role a minute with an accent that betrays her Massachusetts roots. When it comes to the job, she's beyond verbose, gleefully rattling off numbers and acronyms. But when it's about her political beliefs or her personal interests, she's more reticent.

"I like bird watching. I'm not the best at identification, but I enjoy the walk and the contemplative period with that," she says. "And I have a hobby that's a little off-beat: I like non-Euclidean geometry and some of theoretical physics."

**POLITICS**



# Nuke of the North: Québec's Gentilly-2 Reactor Faces VT Yankee-Style Closure Fight

BY KEN PICARD



Gentilly-2 nuclear generating station, Québec.

ENERGY

**A** decade-old nuclear power plant that cost about \$35 million from Burlington was scheduled to close in 2012 but is now seeking a new lease on life.

For years, nearby residents paid the reactor little mind — and, indeed, many were unaware of its existence — until seismic actions unsettled the status about the plant's safety and reliability record. Those concerns were fueled, last year, by scheduled outages, releases of radioactive isotopes, notably cesium, into the environment, and tests of spent nuclear fuel stored on-site in dry-cask containers.

Those operations that were not operation the plant, which employs about 750 people, has repeatedly assured neighbors that the reactor is safe — and provincial government leaders and regulators that the plant would be decommissioned on time.

But now the utility, which has a reputation for secrecy, mulling the plant's future and internal operations, has instead proposed refurbishing the reactor and keeping it running until 2040. The national regulatory body that oversees nuclear safety effectively rubber-stamped the plan, even before it had received a comprehensive safety-analysis report.

Regulatory approval of the plant's continued operation came despite overwhelming opposition from local citizens. 235 municipalities adopted a resolution calling for the plant's closure. Now, many residents are pressuring the government, which has the final say to keep the process and shut down the aging reactor before a serious accident occurs.

Why? Taking the Gentilly-2 Generating station, located on the banks of the St. Lawrence River in Beauport, Québec.

But the story of the 625-megawatt nuclear plant is only smaller to that of Vermont Yankee. Proponents, "you see, don't," but it has failed to supply as "G-2"

it's the only operational nuclear plant in Québec. The province's motto — *Omnino —* has 100. Another motto: a town of G-2, and New Brunswick.

G-2, which opened in October 1983, is owned and operated by Hydro-Québec, one of Canada's largest utilities and a major supplier of Vermont's electricity. In 2009 Hydro-Québec provided more than 1.7 million megawatt-hours of electricity to Vermont, or nearly one-third of the state's entire energy load, according to the Vermont Department of Public Services.

G-2 represents 2.5 percent of Hydro-Québec's total generating capacity — a drop in the bucket compared with the 57 percent that comes from hydroelectric dams. Hydro-Québec representatives cannot say how much power Vermont derives from G-2. All the electricity a generator is fed into Hydro-Québec's electric grid.

Hydro-Québec's motto is about G-2 if its energy contribution to Vermont is negligible at best. For one, G-2 is midway between Québec City and Montreal, making it the nearest nuclear reactor to southern Vermont — closer than Indian Point in Buchanan, N.Y., Pilgrim Nuclear in Plymouth, Mass., Seabrook Station in Seabrook, N.H., or Millstone Nuclear in Waterford, Conn. In fact, G-2 is closer to thousands of Vermonters than Vermont Yankee. By the end of 2012, perhaps as early as September, the provincial government of Québec will decide whether the plant stays open for good or steps up for another 25 years.

The town near about Gentilly-2.1 drive there and a half hour north to Trois-Rivières. Many of the city's residents cross the Lac Beauport lake each morning to work in Le Parc Industriel or Portneuf de Beloeil, or the Beloeil Waterfront Industrial Park, the largest industrial complex in Québec. The park is situated at the crossroads of three electrical

transmission networks. The massive high-voltage lines, which also deliver power to New England, can be seen along Autoroute 20, a major east-west highway between Montreal and Québec City.

In Trois Rivières, I meet up with Michel Fugère, 62, from Mouvement Société for Nuclear Phase-out in Québec. Fugère has spent more than 25 years fighting Gentilly-2. A gruff and somewhat Québécois who speaks English with a thick French accent, Fugère drives as do so many Champlain, a quiet agricultural village of about 1000 people. The houses are a mix of historical and modern, those along the St. Lawrence look pretty.

Champlain offers the best public view of G-2, which lies just four kilometers, or 2.5 miles, across the river. From this vantage point, it's an impressive-looking facility. And Vermont Yankee, it looks the size of a nuclear power plant, and the massive, closed containment buildings.

Fugère drives as through a residential neighborhood near the Notre-Dame-de-la-Visitation Church. Several years ago, he says, about a half dozen women on one street displayed thyroid problems, which Fugère's group blamed on G-2's emissions. They distributed placards that read, "Zero Nucleaire."

Those weren't the first public health problems blamed on G-2, Fugère says. More than 20 years ago, Fugère says, he threw himself into Québec's nuclear movement after a number of babies were born with unusual birth defects as an area downriver from G-2. Hydro-Québec vehemently denied the cases were connected to the plant — indeed, on canal lock was never proven. Nevertheless, Québec's nuclear activists point out that their country's emission standards for radioactive releases from nuke plants are much higher than those in the European Union or the United States.

Trifling is especially problematic, Fugère says, because G-2's reactor design, known as the CANDU-6, consent to release more than 100 times as much nuclear waste in the world. In fact, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), the equivalent of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), allows G-2 to release a greater quantity of cesium into the air and water each day than was estimated to be leaking from Vermont Yankee in a year. Canada's standard for cesium in drinking water is nearly 10 times higher than the limit set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Fugère says Québec's sentiment against nuclear energy runs deep, though one "Jean Jacques" encountered in Trois Rivières traces a pro-nuclear view: "Gentilly's good jobs and good for companies with power" says the 43-year-old in broken English.

Polls have consistently shown that a majority of Canadians oppose nuclear power, but that opposition only grew after last year's nuclear disaster at Fukushima, Japan. An April 10 survey, again survey by Abacus Data found that only 34 percent of Canadians supported nuclear power, 44 percent said that Canada shouldn't build any more nuclear and should close all existing ones. Only 20 percent characterized nuclear power as "safe."

Fugère readily admits he's not a trained scientist and relies more technical questions to Gordon Edwards, president of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility. Edwards, who's based in Montreal, is Québec's equivalent of Anne Goodson of Burlington. He's a nuclear physicist who has spent years challenging claims about the safety, reliability and economics of Canada's nuclear industry.

Edwards arrived in Québec in 1974, at a time when Hydro-Québec was planning to build 100 nuclear reactors along the St. Lawrence River. In 1976, he and two colleagues gave a presentation on



nuclear power to Québec's natural resources minister Two years later, Québec declared a moratorium on new reactor construction other than that of Gentilly-2, which was already in progress (Gentilly-1, a prototype reactor, never operated properly and has not sold for parts.) Canada has 22 nuclear power plants.

Edwards claims that most Québecers haven't followed the Vermont Yankee story any more closely than Vermonters have followed that of G-2. His is an exception. Not surprisingly, Edwards was many striking parallels between the two plants. Like all nuclear reactors, he says, G-2 and YY are at the tail end of the so-called "babushka curve" — a graphic representation of the likelihood of maintenance problems, which tends to be greatest when a reactor is new, when it's entering retirement or right after it's refueled.

An Edwards explains, G-2 cannot continue to operate without replacing thousands of radioactive tubes that

add. "People don't feel empowered to understand what's going on, because they don't know the technical terms and can't decode the documents that they read."

He points out that Hydro-Québec already went ahead and spent \$400 million "behind people's backs" on the refurbishment, even though the decision to keep the plant operational will rest in the hands of the provincial government.

Compounding the problem is an alleged culture of secrecy at Hydro-Québec. Though the company is owned by Québec citizens, Edwards says getting information is even harder than it is in the United States.

I encountered that resistance when my request to Hydro Québec to tour the facility was denied "the security reasons." Later, when I tried to drive to G-2's head jobs, my car was intercepted on an entrance road by a Hydro-Québec security vehicle. The driver was a polite and very well-trained female guard who spoke basic English but made her instructions to leave absolutely clear.



Photo courtesy of Mike Pugh

constitute the reactor's primary cooling system. Over 30 years, those tubes have grown brittle, corroded and dangerously thin, he explains dramatically, increasing the likelihood of a loss-of-coolant accident, like the one that blew up Switzerland's Lucerne reactor in 1999 and Chernobyl in 1986.

Part of Edwards' concern is that the refurbishment, which has an estimated price tag of \$2 billion, won't include replacing the reactor's steam generators, whose components are also 30 years old.

"When you fix up an old car, are the parts you don't fix that are most likely to break down," he explains. The fact that Hydro-Québec isn't replacing its steam generators is "a victory, to say the least."

Why isn't the CNSC making that call? As Edwards explains, the CNSC, like its American equivalent, tends to accept such decisions from nuclear-industry executives without much skepticism. "We have a regulatory agency here that is so gentlemanly, they just regard the whole refurbishment, which is essentially rebuilding the core of the reactor, as if it were regular maintenance and consequently doesn't require a special hearing or investigation."

"There's also the general mystification over [nuclear] technology," Edwards



blasted by phone. Marie-Eliane Demers, a spokesperson for Hydro-Québec in Montreal, says that critics' claims about maintenance and reliability problems at G-2 are overblown. She asserts that the plant's record is "very good, actually it's all in the maintenance." As she explains, G-2 is shut down once a year to keep it up top my shape.

"The CNSC would never let us run unless we were reaching the highest security possible," she adds.

But Edwards says such statements illustrate the "delity and Hydr" nature of nuclear power. He notes that G-2 sits on an active earthquake zone "It's safe said it because very dangerous." And then it becomes vague as local but a global concern.

To wit, several weeks ago, Pugh reported an event commemorating the one-year anniversary of the Fukushima disaster. To demonstrate how and where nuclear radiation might travel in the event of a similar accident at G-2, organizers launched three atmospheric balloons outfitted with GPS units. Within hours, the balloons were tracked to Mexico.

"The day the wind was going that way. On another day, it might go in the Vermont direction," Pugh says. "I think that might be of interest to your readers, eh?" ☺

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# Should the Burlington Free Press Share Its Almost-Pulitzer Glory?

BY ANDY BRIDGEMAN

**T**he Burlington Free Press made news last month when it was named a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize — the most prestigious award in journalism. The Pulitzer Board did not pick a winner this year in the “editorial writing” category, but on April 16 it announced that Vermont’s largest daily newspaper had made the short list, for a “coverage that resulted in the state’s first reforms of open government laws in 25 years, reducing legal obstacles that helped shield the work of government officials.”

The Free Press covered its own Pulitzer nod, of course. An on-line story on Page One the next day said the paper’s editorials “helped persuade the Legislature last year to require judges to reveal legal costs to people who sue public records lawsuits.” A second front-page “notice” — by publisher Jim Hooley — credited the editors with “pushing Vermont to make its first reforms of open government laws in 25 years.”

That’s a powerful journalistic narrative. But is it accurate?

The public-records law signed by Gov. Peter Shumlin last year made a number of reforms. As influenced by the Free Press, it created penalties against government agencies that deny access to records when the person requesting them prevails in court. It established a legislative study committee charged with reviewing the public-records act and each of its more than 250 amendments.

Who deserves credit for the change? At the time, the work, some politicians were just as eager as the Free Press to claim some responsibility for what they see as an important, and politically popular, victory.

“I was pushing transparency right from the get-go,” says Secretary of State Dan Clifton, who has received 34 Vermont towns on a “transparency tour” last year.

The two lawmakers who sponsored last year’s legislation maintain the bill had been on their to-do list since 2007.

“I never read the editorials,” says Sen. Jeanette White (D-Windham), who chairs the Senate Government Operations Committee. “I cannot tell you what one of the editorials said, except the one that said I was a dog like a weasel.”

White’s counterpart in the House, Rep. Dennis Swersky (D-Windham), admits there were “insights from the on-records,” but insists the Free Press “was not the driving force.” He credits his own committee, plus a coalition of advocates that includes CoeCollis, the American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont, the Vermont Press Association (of which the Burlington

Free Press is a member), Brattleboro-based Press Legal News, state unionist Gregory Seaborn and the Vermont State Employees Association (VSEA), as well as citizens activists.

“It was a commitment we had made to look at this for some time now,” Swersky says. “We were probably late in getting to it.”

Still, Vermont’s official history of state records, says that while last year’s change significantly strengthened the open-records law, advocates have been “tinkering with it all along.” He cites an earlier change that expanded the definition of records to include digital ones. He also notes that case law has “refined” the law since a 2003 ruling by Supreme Court Judge Geoffrey Coward on a lawsuit

about everything from local embassies to the investigation into the mysterious disappearance of an Essex couple, Bill and Lawrence Currier. The paper endorsed Burlington mayor candidate Jane Lusher — who came within four votes of winning in the Democratic caucus — because of its transparency platform.

The body of editorials named the Free Press a Scripps National Foundation Award in 2009.

That same year, the paper recognized veteran reporter Mike Donoghue, who serves as executive director of the Vermont Press Association, from the sports desk to news, in person to cover open-government stories. Together with other Free Press reporters and editors, Donoghue has challenged Vermont’s notori-

ously opaque to the Pulitzer Board. “If they say they were the moving force on the law, that would be an overstatement,” he says.

Ironically, the Free Press editors were not forthcoming with that information. Scripps supplied a written statement that said: “It’s quite an honor that reflects on everyone at the Free Press... Their’s glory of work led to do for open government in Vermont. Why not share?”

Ash to provide a copy of its noncommittal letter — media outlets recommended themselves for Pulitzer — Scripps said, “I’m afraid I have no access to an admission package. You’ll have to track down Mike.”

That’s little consolation: the Free Press executive editor Townsend didn’t reply to numerous phone and email messages over the past two weeks regarding an interview, a copy of the submission letter or any other information about how the Free Press characterized its own role in changing public-records law in Vermont in the Pulitzer honor.

So CoeCollis and members of the Pulitzer Prizes, told Jones Days he could not help on that account, either.

Richard Cox is editorial page editor of the *Burlington Free Press*, and chaired the five-member jury that reviewed Pulitzer submissions in editorial writing. While Pulitzer rules limit what he could say about the selection process, Cox tells Jones Days that the Free Press was nominated because it was “among the top submissions that we felt had this year included issues,” Scripps and Townsend share the Pulitzer honor with Bloomberg News for editorials examining the European debt crisis and the Tampa Bay Times (for editorials that led Florida’s Gov. Rick Scott to “cancel his ways”).

Cox says his jury received 80 submissions in editorial writing this year and narrowed it down to the final three. Why was no winner chosen? CoeCollis says he could discuss confidential deliberations but explains that, quite simply, no submission was widely supported from the Pulitzer Board. The group did not pick a fiction winner this year either.

“We don’t really go into details like why a paper is awarded or not awarded,” he says.

Cox admits that it’s often difficult to draw a direct link between a newspaper’s editorship and its impact on changing public policy, adding that Pulitzer judges do not independently research such changes.

His impact was the only metric the Pulitzer Board relies on for editorial writing, with “clarity of style, sound judgment, sound reasoning, and the power to influence public opinion.” ☐



**I NEVER READ THE EDITORIALS ...  
EXCEPT THE ONE THAT SAID I WAS ACTING LIKE A WEASEL.**

SEN. JEANNETTE WHITE

brought by the VSEA that void the union could not be charged simply for exposing public records.

“I don’t want to quibble — the Free Press should get its due — but I see the push that resulted in the change as a group, though not coordinated, effort,” Smith says. The *Burlington Herald* fought one case to the Vermont Supreme Court as an attempt to obtain records in executive police discipline cases — helping establish new precedent in the process. The *Wiley News* and *VTDigger* both led the *Burlington Herald* Department over records relating to alleged misconduct by an officer. *VTDigger*’s Anne Galloway teamed up with the ACLU to sue for records in the Wayne Russell case, in which an African American man was peppered in his own home after *Hartford* police mistook him for a criminal.

But at the Free Press, open-records reform has been a venerable crusade. Since 2006, editors Mike Townsend and Ash Scripps have pressed more than 100 editorials calling for greater transparency in Vermont’s halls of power. They’ve convinced public-records lawsuits from status

only work public-records law — once ranked second worst in the U.S. — to its release of previously sealed criminal records and pay open records court proceedings.

But let’s not close. Several Vermont newspaper editors complained to Jones Days that the Free Press appeared to be claiming sole credit for changing the records law that, reflecting, some would go on record saying so.

Doug Clifton, a retired Pulitzer Prize-winning newspaper editor who lives in Middlebury, says the Free Press deserves credit for leading the open government issue to the forefront, because it has done more than any other news outlet in Vermont “on the freedom-of-information front.”

“Did the Free Press go overboard in claiming credit for legislative reform?” asks Clifton, who was executive editor of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and the *Atlanta Herald*. “I think you could make an argument either way. But I don’t think it’s accurate that they take some credit for it.”

Whichever, Clifton says, would leave the Free Press characterized the impact of



# The Church Street Marketplace Spruces Up With a New Mural

BY KEVIN J. KELLEY

About a year ago, Louisiana's *Black & Blue* owner **ROBERT FULLER** was passing through Alabama on his BMW motorcycle on route to Florida when he came to the town of Dothan. The self-described "Peanut Capital of the World," Dothan is also famous for its dachshund and so murals depicting notable local persons and scenes from town history.

As one of many highway travelers who would never have visited Dothan if not for its murals, Fuller became inspired to endow Dothan with a similar tourist attraction. He decided to seed an ambitious mural project on the Church Street Marketplace with a \$10,000 donation.

"Robert Fuller is the visionary behind this whole thing," says Quebec artist Pierre Hardy, who is now managing completion of the tongue-in-cheek commissions that will transform the alleyway alongside Ruess Republic building to the Marketplace parking garage. Fuller invested in Hardy's mural, titled "Everyone Loves a Parade!" as a ploy when the project's owners were having trouble persuading sponsors to contribute \$80,000 cost.

"It was really hard to pressure it to people without them seeing what it actually looked like," says Church Street Marketplace director **RON HENDRICK**. "It wasn't until January, when you could see clearly what Pierre was doing, that people got it! The fundraising goal has now been reached, Redmond reports.

Even in its current form — 4-by-4-foot panels leaning against the walls of one Ruess garage — Hardy's work has the visual power to persuade shoppers. And the work is likely to engage shoppers and strollers. Colorful and hyperrealistic, the mural depicts an eclectic cast of major and minor Vermont celebrities. There's Robert Frost and befuddled *Howl* Dog Lady **URS MOORE**, Ethel Allen and Snowflake Bentley, John Deere and John Deere Molly Stark, Veronica Lake and Wild Street tycoon Harry Green, Maria van Trump and Rudyard Kipling, John Flynn, C.J. Smith, George Fredrick Marsh, Alexander Selkirk, Fred Tuttle, Jody Williams, Sen. **BENNY SANDERS**, *THE ARABIAN* and at least a score more.

Hardy has also included a few famous figures not known to have ever visited Vermont. Also Lincoln, for example, is shown waving from a window because, the artist explains, Vermont was the first state to abolish slavery. OK, but what about Elvin? What's the King doing here? It's a gambler! Hardy responds, "Something like that has to be abandoned."

The boisterous, 30-year-old artist graciously hosts visitors to the makeshift studio where he and two Vermont assistants **SHAWN HILLMAN** and **MARY VITALE** are working to complete a project that began eight months ago. Hardy quickly takes pride in his comment, but he acknowledges an undercurrent of anxiety, as well.

"It's been a very complex project," Hardy says. "The reactions and reactions along the way have been very intense."

That's partly because he's had to find ways to add several individual Mosaics at the behest of the Church Street Marketplace. For \$250, a sponsor gets a "half body image presence" in the parade, while it costs \$750 to have a more formal and large logo included in the tableau. Due to large part to the constant updating, the dedication of



Over a mural



the finished 124-by-64-foot mural has been pushed back from May to some time in June, or maybe July.

"It's like we've been building a plane at the same time we've been flying it," Redmond comments.

In addition to constantly revising the mural, Hardy has had to cope with the distraction of living in the Courtyard Marriott hotel on Battery Street since September. "It's taken a lot of adapting," he admits. But Hardy's stable manner has also helped him make friends with several hotel employees, whom he has painted into the mural.

With all the commercial signs Hardy is obliged to incorporate, some critics might see "Everyone Loves a Parade!" more as a church billboard than as a playful work of public art. The artist is confident, however, that the mural's celebratory spirit will prevail over the presence of brand names.

Having created murals in the Dominican Republic and Lebanon, as well as several sites in Canada, Hardy has built a reputation over the past 20 years as a skilled

**HARDY IS CONFIDENT THAT THE MURALS CELEBRATORY SPIRIT WILL PREVAIL OVER THE PRESENCE OF BRAND NAMES.**

painter who doesn't compromise on materials. His insistence on maintaining artistic control prevents him from taking on private residential commissions, he points out. "A homeowner would have to agree to all my conditions, and that is not easy to do," Hardy says.

A marketplace committee chose him for the largest mural project in a 2007 competition that drew entries from 18 artists in Canada, France and the United States. Part of the deal is that Hardy will require his work to endure for at least 20 years with only six around new bags. The complex and high-tech exterior house paint he applies on reinforced grids placed will be tested to guard against fading from sunlight and too few may remove it profits.

The unveiling will occur during the Marketplace's 20th anniversary year. It's time for the freshening up that Hardy's work will provide, Fuller says, and notes that most U.S. downtowns that established pedestrian shopping streets during the past three decades have been unable to maintain those vibrations. "Church Street has been largely successful, but now have to keep moving it," he declares. Fuller has further ambitions for downtown Dothan again that he wants as large as scale as "Everyone Loves a Parade!" He sees Hardy's mural as the first of a series he hopes will be installed on the Queen City, eventually asking if he will know Hardy will participate in Dothan, Ala. ☐



# You Can't See Mac Parker's Film, But You Can Read His Book

BY HAROLD HARRISON

Over a decade, **HAROLD "MAC" PARKER** of Addison did the unthinkable: He raised \$18 million from Vermonters to make a film, but the bulk of that money went to repaying the investors themselves, and \$18 million ended up in the pockets of Parker's since partner, Connecticut prosecutor Louis Sotomayor. Now, in his final case drawn national press, Parker is trying to begin the repayment of his debts — by self-publishing a book.

It sounds like a joke, but, unlike his still-unpublished documentary *Birth of Innocence*, Parker's novel, *Rare Earth*, is readily available. It's selling downloads for \$12 on his website, with an assurance that "80% of proceeds will go directly into an escrow account for the benefit of local art." And he has sent the book to each of those lenders — whose responses to his new endeavor vary.

On April 11 Parker, 54, pleaded guilty to two charges of fraud in federal court. He is cooperating with the prosecution of Sotomayor and court discuss the case, but he agreed not to speak with *Seven Days* — with his attorney present — to talk about *Rare Earth*.

"I'm not so naive as to think that writing one novel and putting it on a website as a PDF is going to repay the money that I owe," says the self-proclaimed Northeast Kingdom native. While Parker hopes to secure an agent and trade publication for *Rare Earth*, his says he made no "calculated decision" to write it. "That's what I was given to do, and that's what I'm doing."

That's no more than a phrase. After he rushed Sotomayor had betrayed his trust, Parker says, "I began thinking and asking and praying, literally OK, what can I do as a creative person in *2010* the premises that I have made?" In April 2011, he came out, he "woke up in the middle of the night and the whole book was there, saying in no concrete terms, 'Write me.'" He posted it on the web in February and has sold 26 copies so far.

What is this book that Parker was "given" to write? It is not a thinly veiled account of his current troubles. (Parker has denied his lawsuit with Sotomayor in a statement to the U.S. District Court.) While it doesn't argue Parker's own case, *Rare Earth* does defend a value he says is still pertinent to the here and now.

The novel's protagonist is Monroe Miller, a young woman who has left her ancestral Vermont farm for a city job and a series of dead-end relationships. Until, that is, she meets a sensitive young man

named Cecil Williams, who is smitten with her and her background. ("And you left that place?" he asks, when she brings him momentary guests.)

The two fall chaotically in love against the backdrop of the rugged mountains that stand above the Miller farm — for them, an emblem of nature's beneficent power, for a three-headed energy company, however, that same mountain is a potential lucrative source of "rare earth" minerals.

The defenders and explorers of nature square off in a battle for the land with echoes of recent cases such as the Lowell Mountain protest. "They would be stalling," writes Parker of the "three young Vermonters' own words



Mac Parker

fight for native interest as the great herself came to a new way of looking at the world. But while her slow-to-come trust is rewarded, Parker's "decade of positive, transformational experiences" with Sotomayor eventually led to a radical betrayal.

"For me this whole story is really about trust. Placemore trust," says Parker. "My trust — misguided, but trust nonetheless — and people's trust in me."

The book, he continues, is "about trust and understanding, and reestablishing it as places where it's been broken." By sending it to the lenders, he claims, he sought not "to try to convince them, but hopefully to demonstrate that I'm doing all I can to make this right."

How do Parker's investors feel about that outcome? **ROBERT HELEN PHILLIPS**, who lent him \$25,000, has become one of his strongest critics. "At this point I am so angry and disgusted by Mac Parker that anything he attempts in the guise of creativity is repulsive to me," Phillips writes in an email. Still, he "forced" himself to read *Rare Earth*, which he calls "wonderful, ironic, predictable and so incredibly uncomfortable" as well as a "discovery of truth" aimed at the reader, not the public. In a message to Parker, Phillips calls upon him to shelve this venture and focus on

bringing *Birth of Innocence* to market.

**SHARON GUTWIN**, owner of FishbowlGYM, lent Parker \$100,000 and considers herself a friend of his family. She says in a phone interview: She hasn't had time to read *Rare Earth*, but says, "I don't think that it has much chance of helping in any notable way. This is a show of how Mac Parker's heart is in the right place."

Of Parker himself, Gutwin says, "This is a person who was extremely glib and vulnerable." She recalls an occasion on which the next Sotomayor, who seemed mentally unstable to her, and observed that "Mac was looking at this guy with a smile and a trace. There's what scared me."

"Part of what I'm learning is that I'm still a trusting person, but I'm far more awake," says Parker now. "I don't want the lesson for me to be to go into a shell and be a hard and cynical person. That's not who I am." His book, he says, "is about, and for the people who trusted Mac Parker. So my hope is that it will be very successful, for them."

Whatever its prospects, *Rare Earth* conveys the author's worldview with passion and eloquence, giving readers a taste of what they might eventually see in his film. Gutwin thinks Parker is sincere: "He really believes he can succeed by paying everything back."

At the same time, she sees irony in his choice to dream his person of the book's proceeds into a family's living expenses. "If it were me, I'd be living in a tent." □



## DAVID LIBENS

Libens is a 30-year-old Michigan cartoonist. One year ago, he started his most ambitious work and has been in the 2010-2011 lineup at the Center for Cartoon Studies. You can read more of his comics on his blog at [davidlibens.com](http://davidlibens.com) and in his other blog. If you need this in person, ask him how his blog and he'll give you an hour of his weekly comic. How are you doing?



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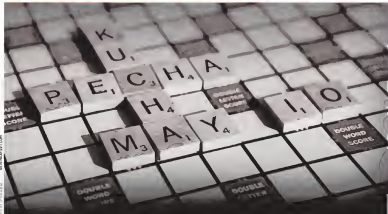
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Why do we have allergic reactions? What use do allergies serve? I can't imagine any Darwinian advantage I can't see being a successful mastodon hunter with sneezing and hacking going away your position. Don't get me started on trying to woo a female with things that are meant to be dry being moist and things that are meant to be moist being dry and itchy. Sincerely

**Y**ou know, here, a rainy nose doesn't do much for your sex appeal, but if it weren't for allergies, or at least for the physiological mechanisms that govern it, there could be dead.

Allergies are an overactive version of the chain of events that enables your body to defend itself against foreign invaders such as poisons, germs, bacteria and viruses. Think of your under skin, a type of white blood cell in your body produces immunoglobulin E (IgE) antibodies. These antibodies latch onto other cells and encourage them to release histamine and other inflammatory chemicals, a hyper-allergic response sometimes called hay fever. It's the usual allergic symptoms and a rash for hay fever.

Interesting? Here, had what would you rather do, be a doctor or be lusty or more?



About one in five people in the developed world suffers from at least one allergy today. Is the sufferer who's allergic to just one thing. For example, sensitivity to sugar or harsh pollen can induce food allergies due to cross-reactions between the pollen and similar food proteins such as those found in apples.

Why do some people over-react? Because to put the most positive spin on it, they're better at recognizing key elements of potentially harmful substances and mobilizing a white-blood-cell response. This process has developed over millions of years

and works well overall, leading some researchers to trace our immune system — even in hyper-sensitive mice — one of the greatest success stories of evolution.

The problem is that it takes your immune system a while to learn what's harmful and what's not, mainly by being exposed to enough of the benign substance over time. That's how allergy shots work giving you gradually larger amounts of allergens to desensitize you.

This takes us to the so-called hygiene hypothesis, discussed here in the past. In our sterile modern world, exposure to allergens when young, a critical time for training the immune system, has been greatly reduced. Fewer chronic infections and parasites

have also limited our ability to adapt to allergens. The hygiene hypothesis hasn't been proven, biologically because the genetic and biological factors behind allergies remain poorly understood. However, there's reason to think you'd have fewer allergies now if as a kid you spent more time living in filth.

Many studies indicate spending time in a farm during childhood reduces the likelihood of allergies, especially hugging around farm animals and eating. Drinking unpasteurized milk may also help. For asthmatics, these seem to be a relationship between allergy incidence and the cleanliness of your living conditions. A German study found children who slept on dirty — sometimes filthy — mattresses were much less likely to suffer from hay fever and allergies, a protective effect seen in both farming and non-farming households.

Children and modern living in the less industrialized nations part of the northern European region of Korea had substantially fewer allergies than their more Westernized Korean neighbors in Poland, possibly due to greater exposure to microbes in soil and water. A Norwegian study found those living closer to the sea in small villages had fewer allergies than those living in towns and cities. Our multi-country European study found that microbial exposure while in the womb could help prevent development of allergies.

Chinese researchers found urban children were more than three times as likely to have asthma or allergies than rural kids, especially those exposed to bronchitis or meningitis. This is true even after accounting for the possibility of "buddy-buddy effect" — i.e., the tendency for those who are too allergic to farm life to leave while mother's milk remains. Urban Chinese children were about nine times more likely to be allergic to cats than their rural cousins.

There's evidence that early exposure can reduce allergic sensitivity to the dreaded peanut. A study comparing Jewish kids in Israel and the UK found a clear inverse relationship between early peanut consumption and occurrence of peanut allergies, even after genetics and socioeconomic considerations were factored out. Another study concluded high levels of peanut exposure during infancy were bad but modest levels could be desirable protectively.

Though we can't yet say why with certainty, it seems evident allergies are on the rise in the industrialized world. Long-term studies in Denmark, the UK, Japan and other countries have found significant increases in allergy complaints. One bright spot: Allergies in France may be leveling off. Is exposure to earthy French cuisine? No idea, but in no way of helicopter parenting, it's tempting to think the best defense against allergies may be early childhood contact with good, old-fashioned dirt.

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## Our Town

**“W**here’s the strip club? Oh, heck — don’t tell me that town doesn’t have strip clubs.”

Thank God these guys were enlisting at the Courtyard Marriott on Academy Street, because I really didn’t want to spend more than eight minutes in their company. Well, at least not with the man in the backseat, his companion sitting next to me in the shotgun seat, seemed suitably well-to-do and well-contained.

“You’re extra lucky, buddy,” I replied over my shoulder and the din of the radio. (I had considered just ignoring the guy, but he had asked me a specific question, and I’m nothing if not polite.) “You want to see a mixed women tonight, you’re gonna have to use your charm.”

My seatmate couldn’t resist. “If that’s the case,” he joked, “my boy back there doesn’t stand a chance.”

I thought that was pretty funny and let out a laugh, but found, not so much so. “Oh, you’re f---in’ hilarious,” he said. “You know what I hate this fucking town. And more to the point, where is the nearest strip club?”

“Montpelier,” I replied, but then remembered a closer location. “Cherub,” I corrected myself. “I guess there might be a club or two just over the border, maybe in Hillsborough.”

Even if they wanted to take that ride, and even if they were prepared to pay the big bucks to make it happen, there was no way I would do it. This reflected an evolution in my work philosophy in my earlier years of hacktack, if the mission was legal and the money right, I’d drive anywhere, anytime. But these days, I draw the line

at certain jobs, such as the transport of legal, but-cursed individuals.

“Good,” he said, “let’s go there, let’s do it — Hillsborough.”

“Well, that’s a nonstarter,” his friend said, to my relief. “It’s nearly there, and the wedding is in the morning — is just a few hours, actually.”

“You guys are up here for a wedding?” I asked.

Before my seatmate could answer, Toby blurted out, “How about hookers? Any Asian prostitutes in town?”

AS FAR AS I KNOW,  
B-TOWN DOESN'T  
HAVE STRIP CLUBS  
OR  
ASIAN HOOKERS.

“Hmm... could you be a little more specific? I mean, are we talking about Vietnamese hookers? Korean? Perhaps Nepali?”

Toby didn’t think that was funny, big surprise. In fact, he seemed to take my question seriously.

“I don’t give a f---, as long as they’re Asian.”

“Well, that’s lovely,” I said, “but I don’t think I can help you there, either. As far as I know, B-town doesn’t have strip clubs or Asian hookers. We really are a backwater, I guess.”

Not for the first time, I thought about the random, if not chaotic, aspect of my occupation. Between these guys, my last fare was a couple of young, bright-eyed visual artists who spoke loudly with me about the challenges and joys of creating art in the 21st century. Before those two was a recent European immigrant, a hardworking woman who had just gotten off work bussing tables at a tiny Church Street restaurant. And before that, before that... To stick a line from *Forest Gump*, cab driving is like a box of chocolates, which means sometimes you get the nuts.

As we turned onto Cherry Street, Toby reiterated his central point of the evening: “Man, I hate this fucking town.”

The truth is, I am way too identified with the Queen City, my adopted hometown. I take remarks like Toby’s personally, and how much is that I was seriously poised to defend Burlington’s honor, but something gave me pause, and it wasn’t my general reluctance to involve with drunken loads.

Rather, it dawned on me that this city is simply not for everyone. Burlington’s charms, as it were, are lost on a large percentage of the population. Most tourists are in town because they want to be here, were drawn to be here, and they enjoy their stay immensely. But if you’re just being dragged here for a wedding, you may not get the vibe, or you may get it and not like it, particularly in the absence of paid Asian companionships.

Burlington is not quaint; it’s not trendy; it’s not really hip, and I don’t think it ever will be. But I love this town, and here’s hoping it never loses what

makes it — for some folks, including me — the greatest place to call home: its steady heart of gold.

Of course, when we pulled up to the hotel, Toby immediately passed me a twenty over the seat. “Keep it,” he said, with a big, dopey grin. “Sorry I busted your chops.”

I hate when this happens. Just when I’m really starting to desert a dude, he goes and redeems himself. I wish the bad guys would stop bad guys, and the good guys would stop good guys. I would truly appreciate the consistency, and I don’t think that’s too much to ask of the universe. But as people are constantly re-inventing themselves in complicated, multi-dimensional space, it’s enough to make me drop my cynicism and approachable attitude. Sometimes I just might.

Toby got out, and my seatmate said, “Hey, would you mind dropping me at the Hilton around the corner? I’ll show you a couple extra bucks!”

“No problem, man. And you don’t have to give me any more money. Your friend had a twenty on me.”

As we ascended over to the Hilton, my customer said, “You know, Toby is really a good guy. He just gets so freaking obnoxious.”

“Well, you know what?” I said, chuckling. “I, too, think of myself as a good guy, and I also get freaking obnoxious sometimes. How about yourself?” ☺

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# What Women Want *Now*

Will young feminists follow Madeleine Kunin's road map for revolution?

BY KATHRYN FLAGG

Indie-music darling Nebo Cose and Anah Mitchell lost their celebrity to a women's-rights protest last Saturday in Montpelier. But when Madeleine Kunin stepped up to the podium before the boisterous crowd of some 200, Vermont's first—and so far only—female governor was even more strong than the stars with whom she shared the stage.

On the same day, in every state in the country, women were gathering on Statehouse lawns and in city squares to protest these so-called "year on women." It's a holiday that's less picked in Vermont, protesters in Montpelier acknowledged, but the talk of the day was of solidarity, sisterhood and "standing our ground."

Kunin's address—punctuated with catchy phrases met by genuine applause—had the feeling of a campaign speech. On access to health care and insurance reform, "Having a pair of ovaries should not be a preexisting condition." On the importance of women in leadership roles: "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu."

Campaigning for office isn't all that different from humbating a political legacy, which Kunin appears to be doing these days, with high-profile appearances, guest commentaries, a documentary in progress. Suddenly, it seems like she's everywhere.

She's also promoting a new book, *The New Feminist Agenda: Defining the Next Revolution for Women, Work, and Family*, which her foundation shelves just in time for Saturday's rally. Part policy manifesto, part research digest, Kunin's book argues that for all the advances of the women's movement in the United States, the country is way behind when it comes to family policies designed to support women in the workplace.

"It may seem a retrograde step to suggest that feminists like me, who strive to liberate ourselves from the limited roles of wife and mother, have come full circle to face, once again, on the family," Kunin writes. Yet she argues that's exactly where the country must turn its attention—to early education, quality childcare and paid parental leave.

Saturday's rally, however, focused less on Kunin's new feminist agenda than it did on the old standards: reproductive freedom, violence against women, equal pay. Dressed for the cold weather in winter hats, gloves and scarves, the women in attendance were joined by a scattering of men, children and dogs. Scrawled chalk messages decorated the sidewalk leading toward the Statehouse. "May the choice be with you!" read one.

The women represented the campus chapter of VOW: Women for Planned Parenthood, which has gained momentum at UVM in the wake of political discourse about women's health care and access to contraception.

"No one thought we would have to have these conversations again," said senior Emily Thierick.

"There's a lot at stake," agreed senior Samantha Wyman.

Not unlike the women on the Statehouse lawn, and unlike for women's rights at the nation's Capitol. In her "insider" speech to a state legislature, Kunin spoke up in favor of the ultimately doomed Equal Rights Amendment. In response to an old friend who told of the women's movement, "I was never one of those angry women," Kunin countered, "I'm still angry."

And she is, milking the troops in



Read all that: Kunin at Statehouse rally

Illustrated with a pastel-colored T-shirt.

Others carried signs: "Don't Tread on Me" was the headline for a diagram of a woman's reproductive system. University of Vermont freshman Jessa Fuller snugged in front of the golden dome for a picture with a placard reading, "This is what a feminist looks like." As a photographer snapped a group going nearby, they shouted "Vigilant."

With the breeze threatening to carry off their Planned Parenthood flags, Fuller and many classmates from UVM weighted them down with heavy stones.

Thierick, Fuller and Wyman are the outliers, according to Kunin. In *The New Feminist Agenda*, her third book, she acknowledges a generational disconnect on the subject of women's rights. Most young women today seem reluctant to describe themselves as "feminists," Kunin notes, and she does not want to become the scold who berates those who label this generation laissez or care about their years of struggle.

And Kunin, now 78, did struggle. She ended arms with fellow protesters and marched in favor of abortion rights. In her short life she took up her own placard,

her senior years, at a time when older leaders might sit back and enjoy their laurel wreaths. "Why the anger?" Kunin asks in the early pages of *The New Feminist Agenda*. "What did I expect?"

In short, she expected more. She expected more female leaders in Congress and state legislatures. That more than 2 percent of House and Senate members would be led by women. That by the year 2010, grandmothers like herself would be able to tell their grandchildren all how they used to be "long ago" when families had to figure out for themselves how to be both wage earners and caregivers.



Kunin ditched her black hat when she stepped up to the podium last Thursday and the break wind caught at white hair that, in her Statehouse portrait, is darker and neatly styled. Her voice rang over the loudspeakers as she reminded those gathered across the lawn that progress rarely follows a straight line, then issued her call to action: "I ask you to be ready to fight the fight that we began and cannot afford to lose. What I've done is

women. Christianity went viral when the Boston G. Kennedy for the Cure foundation awarded Planned Parenthood funding. Gray-at-home women were up in arms when Democratic pundit Hillary Rosen recently chided Ann Romney for "never working a day in her life."

Meanwhile, chasing the zeitgeist, the legislature discussed HBO's new drama "Glee" from 25-year-old wunderland writer-director-actor Lena Dunham. The show follows a quartet of white, young-something women as they bounce between bedrooms and internships in New York. It's "Sex and the City" for a new generation.

Into this latest flurry of girl talk comes *The New Feminist Agenda*.

Kunin calls more attention to gender in the book than she ever did in her political days. During her 1984 bid for the governor's seat, Kunin's campaign was about credentials, not feminist trailblazing, even though she was clearly

gender on issue," says Rankowski, who herself was a trailblazer as one of the first women in the country to lead a statewide campaign for office. Waning debates was crucial, but low-key says, as was looking and acting like a governor.

As the election drew closer, though, the mood shifted. Women began flocking to campaign events with handmade banners that read "Madeleine" and the campaign—which had previously shied away from such informality—produced what came to be known as the "tip-on button." Kunin's first name scrawled in red on a white background. Rankowski says grassroots support for Kunin as a female candidate finally convinced strategists that it might be OK to have the gender conversation.

"This is why the women who are the first carry so much of the burden," says Rankowski. "They're navigating so much more."

When Kunin narrowly defeated

President Bill Clinton was a Kunin fan—and still is. He contributed a glowing blurb for the new book. After the left office, Kunin sat on Clinton's vice presidential search committee and later served as the deputy secretary of education in his administration. In 1993, he tapped her to serve as the U.S. ambassador to Switzerland and tiny Liechtenstein.

As for the work-life balance that Kunin is now championing?

"We had none," says Rankowski. "There's always that tug. This is the story of women's lives, and I don't know that that's a whole lot different."

In fact, Kunin says that very question inspired her to write *The New Feminist Agenda*. Women are forever asking her, "How did you do it?" What they mean is how did Kunin balance motherhood—the law-fair children—and an ambitious political career?

She was lucky, Kunin says. She had a supportive husband and the financial

I ASK YOU  
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WHAT I'M DOING  
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THE TORCH  
TO YOU.

MADELINE KUNIN



Ann Romney (left), Kunin and Hillary Rosen (right) at a 1989 gubernatorial debate

passing the torch to you. You have the passion. You have the energy."

Will young women like Therese and her age-busting congenitors take up Kunin's fight?

## Gender Is an Issue

The release of Kunin's *The New Feminist Agenda* couldn't have been better timed—in the middle of a presidential campaign season that will be remembered for its failed Republican candidates, each seemingly more conservative than the next.

Talking heads on both sides of the political divide see ruling about the war on

"going where few women had gone," says former chair of staff and campaign manager Lu Rankowski.

The campaign wasn't interested in making that point. In fact, early polling showed that voters favored Kunin when they learned about her experience as a legislator, but her lead vanished when those same voters subsequently learned about her gender. A commercial early in the campaign led with just that detail: Kunin's qualifications before unveiling a photograph that gave away the fact that she was female.

"We did our best not to make

then-attorney general John Eaton, she became the fourth woman in the U.S. to be elected governor. She served three terms. "There were so many firsts," says Rankowski. To her husband, Kunin brought energetic, forward-thinking leaders into government, and women occupied Kunin's cabinet and personal staff as unprecedented numbers. She appointed the first woman to Vermont's supreme court. Kunin relied on universal access to kindergarten in the state, and set in motion the popular Dr. Dreemay program, that still provides free or low-cost health care for children and pregnant women.

resources to hire caregivers when her children were young. Even after she landed a seat in Vermont's House, she commuted home to Burlington in time for dinner most evenings.

"I thought that if I missed the balls in the air just right, and was sleepless at night, I could have it all—career, husband & kids," she writes. "Most days I did, some days I didn't."

What Kunin realized is that her answers weren't the answers. Most women didn't have the same advantages that made her life so power possible. Kunin

WHAT WOMEN WANT NOW 38-730

## What Women Want Now

47/11

came to believe that finding a better answer — to a question that has been relevant since at least the 1950s — was the unfinished business of the women's movement.

"We were promised so much," she says. "You know, that you can do it all. But we didn't really make it possible to do it all."

Women in the wake of the feminist revolution of the 1970s flocked first to colleges and universities and then to the workplace. Though the National Committee on Pay Equity shows that American women still earn, on average, 77 cents to the dollar compared to men's salaries, the U.S. hit a historic tipping point in 2003. For the first time in the country's history, women outnumbered men on the payroll.

About this milestone rise of women in the workplace, Kunin writes, "The women's movement sparked changes that far exceeded expectations."

It's what came after — or rather, what failed to come after — that concerns her. Whereas many other countries instituted new workplace policies at the same time that women joined the workforce, Kunin argues that the U.S. still operates on a 1940s ideal of family politics — one that assumes there is a breadwinner at work and a caregiver in the home.

"We have succeeded for a long time in ideal of a housewife attitude toward families and children," she says. "But I think that that philosophy of 'you're on your own' is very hard to continue to support."

### Balancing Acts

Cheryl Hanes, a professor at Vermont Law School, could have been a case study for Kunin's book. She is among the ranks of women who earned an education and professional degree in the wake of the women's movement. A keyboard child of the 1970s, Hanes watched her mother go to work with other secretaries in the Real Motor Company's "pink ghetto." Hanes says her mother, a single parent, was poorly paid and didn't enjoy protection against sexual harassment or gender discrimination now guaranteed under the law.

In the evenings before her mother returned home from work, Hanes watched the protests and marches of the burgeoning women's movement unfolding on the television news. And she benefited from the social services a movement increased opportunities and protection from certain kinds of discrimination account in part for Hanes's jump from

Kalamazoo College to Harvard Law School to her current position on the faculty at VLS.

Along the way, she found it isn't easy to balance professional success with raising a family. No matter what the professions, Hanes says, "The minute those [child] care costs go in, the world sees you differently."

New lawsuits and increased complaints hint at growing dissatisfaction from parents who perceive discrimination in the workplace. Last year, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission marked a 23 percent increase from 2005 in the number of complaints filed by women who alleged unfair treatment due to pregnancy. Hanes has noticed an uptick in so-called "conceal discrimination."

While certain classes, like nurse registrars, are protected under the law against discrimination, parenthood isn't, she says.

"When we talk about what discrimination in the workplace looks like these days, it's really about caregiver discrimination," Hanes says.

Lawrence says, for example, focused on caregivers in fairly high-powered professional worlds. The allegations tend to be that an equally qualified parent has been passed over for a promotion in favor of a single or childless person. That parent could be male or female, Hanes points out.

The bigger issue, as she sees it, is that some would-be parents aren't even making it to the point when they might be passed over in favor of another employee. In her work as a professor, Hanes sees young professional women "opting out" too soon. They might choose a career path that they assume will be more family-friendly down the road, even if they don't yet have children.

"They opt out too early all the time," Hanes says. "Ten, five or seven years down the road, they're not nearly as far ahead as their male colleagues are, and they don't have as many choices at that point."

Hanes is skeptical that policy changes — one of Kunin's favored tools — can fix the problem. Instead, she looks to private companies that are instituting innovative new work-friendly policies for trouble-makers. Hanes says Kunin is invaluable in this debate because she's one of very few women who've risen to power.

"It's often women who will be the ones who carry forward these agendas," Hanes says of better childcare or family-friendly policies or flexible work time. "In order to have the world change for women, we need women in power. That's the bottom line."

Kunin has made a similar argument in the past. Encouraging women to run for office was the subject of her 2008 book,



Photo: David H. Green / 2004

**[MADELEINE KUNIN] IS THIS LIVING, BREATHING, PHYSICAL EMBODIMENT OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE FOR US TO ACHIEVE.**

CARDINE BRIGHT



Kunin poses for a photo with her husband, Bill, and daughter Lisa in 2007.



*Fourth, Politics & Power: How Women Can Win and Lead.* Now she turns her attention to the agenda these women need to undertake.

Even Kunin had reservations about labeling this agenda "feminist," she says she fought her Charles Glenn editor about including that word in the book's title, and the editor won. Ten pages into the manuscript, though, Kunin asks, "In order to fulfill the expectations that feminist promised, do we have to get into the word 'feminist' itself?" Toward the end of her manuscript she makes the case for building a broad-based coalition of women, men, children and elders. Which is to say, everyone.

Sometimes aside, Kunin covers a lot of ground in *The New Feminist Agenda*. She outlines policies that other countries have implemented — often with great success — that encourage a healthier balance of work and family life. Those include more generous family leave, especially after the birth of a child, and better access to early-childhood care and education. She wishes the point that these policies aren't just about making individuals happier or more relaxed, but have economic and social ramifications.

"We're such a quarterly-report, bottom-line society," Kunin says. Being up family leave or mandatory sick leave, she

says, and someone is bound to shoot, 'tobacco'!"

In her book, Kucin points to the work of Nobel Prize-winning economist James Heckman, who has calculated that every dollar invested in early education benefits a return of \$7. She writes about case studies at private companies where paid maternity leave has led to increased employee retention.

Kucin draws a correlation between the country's staggering rate of childhood poverty — nearly a quarter of U.S. families with children under the age of 6 live in poverty today — and what she calls the "lack of enlightened family-work policies."

"We're clinging to the romance of the self-made man (woman) who succeeds on his (her) own," Kucin writes. She argues for rethinking this "American credo" altogether.

The end is a lovely one. And connecting the dots between Kucin's goals and on-the-ground action will be difficult, she admits, especially since those who stand to gain the most from humane family and work policies aren't yet paying attention.

"I think a lot of young women think, 'I don't have to worry about this yet,'" Kucin says.

## Divided We Rant

It may be that young "feminists," if that's what they choose to call themselves, are divided on the relevance of Kucin's work-life agenda.

On the one hand, there's Caroline Bright, 21, a St. Michael's College senior and former Miss Vermont who gushes about her ambition for a political life. She has known since she was 10 years old that she wanted to be a politician someday — a strange choice, she admits, for a grade-school kid.

"Some girls are like, 'I want a pony,'" she says with a laugh. "I was like, 'I want a pony!'"

Bright has been a Kucin acolyte since her first visit to the Strathaus, when she noted the portrait of the "personal, strong woman in this blue suit." At a teenage, Bright read Kucin's *Heart, Politics & Power* and realized, "It felt like there was someone out there who believed in what I wanted to do."

"I think that's the reason so many young people gravitate toward her," says Bright, who shows up for interviews wearing pearls. "She is this living, breathing, physical embodiment of what it possible for us to achieve."

Across town, at UVM, sophomore Miriam McGovern agrees that Kucin is a role model — "I really appreciate all that she's done," she says — but she's

ideological about Kucin's latest agenda, and not nearly as inspired as Bright. McGovern is a member of Red Up Vermont, a grassroots campaign in Burlington that organizes for women's reproductive rights and to end sexual violence. Like many young women, she says it's hard to connect to issues of the work-life balance at this point in her life. McGovern is more worried about the prevalence of rape and sexual violence on college campuses. She bristles at attacks on women's reproductive health.

"We're talking back so quickly," she says. "Time and time again, women have been let down by the government in this country. It's really disheartening, and it makes it hard for me to believe in the system working for women."

Kucin has spent some time mulling over a similar question in the lead-up to her book's release: Can we afford to fight for a new feminist agenda when it seems like the old one is still under attack? Kucin says yes — that if women only defend the territory they've won, they won't make any new advances. She also argues that deep-seated cultural problems around caregiving, childcare and family leave are among the biggest challenges facing women today. "Until we find a way to sort out how to share these responsibilities — between spouses, partners, employers and governments — gender equality will remain an elusive goal," she writes.

Still, it's a hard sell at a year when sexier women's issues are front and center. At Saturday's rally, Sen. Bernie Sanders noted, "We are not returning to the days of hush-hush rhetoric, and the crowd went wild. There were the usual 'she'd showed up to defend, the agenda that inserted sign making and cheering."

Kucin gets that. "Abortion and violence are the foundation," she writes. "And family leave and childcare are not."

She'll have to make the case that her new focus at agenda deserves the same kind of rally. And Kucin will have to win over skeptics, some of whom are the young and energetic banner-carriers of today's feminist movement — such as McGovern.

"It's awful having to make heretical choices about what is more important. Everything is important," McGovern says. "But it's a bummer that we live in a society where there's push back. It's always very reactionary. It's hard to make gains when everything is always being taken away."

At Saturday's rally, Thurston acknowledged, "I think we've got bogged down in how angry we are. And we are angry."

Here, at least, the new and old feminists find common ground. ☺

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# Veterans Day

War stories and memorabilia bring an obscure Colchester military museum to life

BY RETHA PRINDLE



JOHN SCHNECK

**G**uess how much tuition cost when I went to college?" says 82-year-old Bob Ficker. "You'll never get it!" Ficker takes a bite of his sandwich, inviting estimates from five other men who sit with him around the lunch table at the Vermont Veterans Military Museum and Library at Camp Johnson.

"That," offers John Schneck, a fellow vet and museum volunteer.

The men have heard this story several times, but that doesn't make the dollar figure — Schneck is correct — any less astounding.

College tuition is not the only huge difference between young people today and Ficker's generation; their life experiences are, too. Like his fellow museum volunteers, Ficker enrolled in the U.S. Army before earning his college

degree and, by the time he completed his studies at Assumption College in Worcester, Mass., he was a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War.

This disconnect may be one reason the Colchester museum draws only a small number of college students, despite being located less than 300 yards from the main campus of St. Michael's College.

"There aren't many of you, frankly," notes Gene La Mothe, who, like Ficker, is a World War II and Korea veteran. "I was a 20-year-old, I might have other interests, too."

But plenty of young locals, including St. Mike's students, do have an interest in history. And the nets strung around the museum's lunch table have a list of history to share. These combined

experiences span three wars and add up to nearly 100 years.

Supplementing this firsthand experience is a vast array of memorabilia inside the museum. Several pieces date back to the early 1800s, and the museum's tiny library holds a collection of lectures including remotes of every Vermontier who has fought, starting with the Revolutionary War. An accompanying set of cards lists the soldiers who were killed and the cemeteries they're buried in. This collection explains volunteer John Dunley, a Vietnam-era veteran, is the only one of his kind in the state.

Nevertheless, few locals seem to know the military museum exists, though it's been there for 46 years. The museum moved about 400 yards from its

previous location in the 1980s, museum president Bernie Fleming explains. He hopes to draw up interest in the place by distributing brochures at Vermont interstate rest areas. And though the pale-blue building is visible from Route 15, the men agree that prominent signs should be installed by the road.

At least the museum is not long. There isn't one. The museum admits entirely no donations. Access is free, too. Though located at Camp Johnson, the place is open to the public and requires no identification from visitors.

If the Veterans Military Museum is generally underappreciated, note Ficker, La Mothe, Schneck and Dunley look forward to their weekly visits. All four are on hand from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Thursday, ready to share their wisdom and stories, none of which is in short supply.

**HISTORY**



La Mothe creates Schaudt and Dailey with taking care of the museum's administrative aspects. The two are good with computers and capable of sewing mitts.

"But and I say the only computer we have is between our ears," La Mothe, 83, says with a laugh. "But I'd say it's working quite well."

Indeed, La Mothe's recollection of dates, numbers, names and weaponry is rivaled only by Fisher's. The Wilcocks natives met in grammar school five years ago. And despite their advanced years, the two aren't not to be slowing down much. Fisher is involved with the Wilcocks Historical Society and, if genes are any indication, he'll continue offering his services at the military museum for years to come. His sister, whom he refers to as "Sally 86," is a man who works full time as the architect in a convent in Quebec. Fisher describes her ability to remember the dimensions, knee size and approximate value of every piece the convent requires.

"And the part of that is the computer," he adds. "Google? I've never used Google since in my life!"

Like his sister, Fisher is an early riser as his own right. He remembers stories from his strict Catholic school days and his two years of duty overseas as though they happened yesterday.

Fisher vividly recalls being fired upon in Germany during World War II and diving for cover in the ditch-deep, dry ruts left by heavy tanks. Ironically digging deeper with the spoon from his tin soldier.

These memories are paired with photos from Fisher's WWII album, which he references often. His favorite photo shows an American flag flying high above his company's camp in Northfield, Germany.

Incidentally after the war ended in 1945, and while still stationed overseas, Fisher collected red, white and blue daisies to have an



Left to right, John Schaudt, Bob Fisher, John LaMothe and John LaMothe.

## WE SPENT THREE DAYS IN MY BUNKER — WE AND ALL THE FRIENDS I HAD! WE HAD GATHERED SOME RATIONS AND ATE OUT OF CANS.

DEZIE LA MOTHE

American flag made. The Germans, many of whom were Nazi sympathizers, were later toward the victorious American soldiers, he says, but determined to display his country's pride. Fisher presented a silver tin soldier's badge/pocket of materials and asked him to sew an American flag.

"I made it very close, especially with the aid of my weapon," Fisher recalls. "I didn't point it at him, but I moved it a little bit so he knew what I meant."

Fisher's story touches many here worked, because the flag was really written days & flew above his company area, bowed high for all to see. But the flag didn't get all the glory it deserved. Shortly thereafter, an article ran in the Stars and Stripes newspaper describing the first American flag to fly in Germany after World War II. "Mine was finished two weeks before that," Fisher says. "I never wrote to the Stars and Stripes to make a correction, but

now we fear, and I still have it. That's my most highly treasured possession of World War II."

La Mothe, too, cherishes his photos. In his wallet he keeps a photo of himself as a 16-year-old, tooth-board Air Force cadet, along with several snapshots of his beautiful late wife, Barbara, and a worn photo of his 10 children gathered on the sofa at Christmastime.

La Mothe met Barbara between his two tours. He relates. She was his nurse at Bessie Allen Hospital, tending to an injury sustained to the war.

Certain he was falling in love but not ready to get married. La Mothe reunited and began courting, that time with the Army during the Korean War. On Thanksgiving weekend in 1951, La Mothe proposed. He and Barbara were married a month later. She wrote to him every day that he was stationed in Korea, and it was through one of these letters that he found out his first son, Ben, had been born. The letter arrived three weeks after the postmark date.

"It was a fine day," La Mothe recalls. After he returned home, La Mothe worked full time for the Vermont National Guard while Barbara cared for their growing brood. "My wife was just superb," he remembers. "She took care of everything. It's been a wonderful life. Fifty-six years, 14 days we were married," he continues. "Kissed like a long time, right? Not long enough."

La Mothe knew since war, and looks forward to his Thanksgiving at the museum. Like his buddies, he's happy to regale visitors with war stories.

While Fisher saw combat in World War II, La Mothe had a close call at his own in Korea. He talks of digging a bunker 10 feet deep, sheltered by trees he had used to

INTERVIEW BY JESSE

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## Veterans Day by PHS

protect himself from enemy fire on May Day 1952.

"We spent three days in my bunker — me and all the friends I had. We had gathered some movies and the usual cases. We took some down there right out of my shelter; a little dirt came down between the legs, but all four of us survived."

Unlike his older peers, John Schneck had always intended to go into the service. His father lost a hand in the Wisconsin service in 1914, and his wife's uncle, Forrest, was part of the original Band of Brothers, a famous World War II unit whose story was made into a book and later an HBO miniseries.

Cincinnati following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, Tenn.

"It was just a fun time to be in the Guard," Dudley says.

Like his peers, Dudley is well-informed about the history of the U.S. military. He and his fellow veterans have worked to update various museum displays and oversee the restoration of a Civil War-era sword. Painted since 1866, it depicts the famous battle of Cedar Creek in Virginia, two years prior.

Other treasured items in the museum include an authentic Revolutionary War jacket and a real forty-and-eight railway car — meant to hold either 40 men or



"The Band of Brothers was essentially about a company of the 101st Airborne," Schneck explains. "They had parachuted into France on D-Day and then into Holland, and were part of the battle of the Bulge in its stages," he says.

Uncle Forrest died two and a half years ago, Schneck says, but he continues to be inspired by the occasion.

"[The Band of Brothers] put me a whole new revelation in terms of the sacrifice that the men had made during that time frame," he says, his eyes filling with tears.

John Dudley, too, was born into a family with strong military ties. His father was a World War II veteran, and his brother served in Vietnam. And though Dudley did not serve overseas during the war, he witnessed much of the chaos that raged in the 1960s, most notably the war of civilian disarmament that occurred in

eight hours — that dates back to World War I. Forty-eight of the cars were gifted to the U.S. by France — one for each state, Schneck says. Without so much as a chair to sit on, let alone a toilet, Fisher's company traveled across Europe in a forty and eight during World War II.

"Life is full of stories," Fisher says. "The true ones are the best ones." □

**T**he Wisconsin Historical Society Museum and Library is excited and proud to announce the opening of Lang Johnson's Civil War Spent Time at Cedar Creek and Bull Run. The exhibit is on display in the first floor of the museum.

A version of this story first appeared in the Schneck's column, published in the St. Michael's College. Managing editor Anthony Perkins is producing this month.

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# Deeper and Deeper

Book review: *The Deep Zone: A Novel* by James M. Tabor

BY MARGOT HARRISON

**T**here are still a few places left on Earth where, if you come to grief, you're on your own. Those lethal sites include certain peaks and "superzones" delving miles beneath the earth, and *Walden* author James M. Tabor writes about them, with knowledge and flair. In two earlier best sellers, *Forever on the Mountain* (2000) and *Third Desert* (2003), this former History Channel producer has showcased expeditions so perilous that the corpses of those who died on treacherous terrain are warnings for explorers to come.

## BOOKS

In *The Deep Zone: A Novel*, published this month, Tabor has watched gears without changing the subject. He returns here to the underground world of third desert, and readers of that book will recognize features of Chile and Bhutan, and mammoth caves in Mexico.

But it would be impossible to confuse Tabor's sober narration with *The Deep Zone*, which is fiction in hypertext. It's a fast-paced techno-thriller featuring work gangs, two-fisted heroes and heroines, scarily odd women, colorful bad guys, and scenarios. While the science behind the story is thoroughly researched—and fascinating—this is very much a beach book.

In third desert, events colored unbelievable hardships for the thrill of discovery in *The Deep Zone*, they do it to save the world. Hille Leelan, a brilliant young microbiologist, ever and all-around formidable out-thinker, has been summoned to Washington, D.C., to join a team seeking a lost-tech weapon against a resurgence of *Arrestobacter bacteria*.

First contacted by soldiers in Afghanistan, the flesh-eating infection is poised to rampage throughout the U.S. military, and the president has proclaimed it "probably the worst threat since Pearl Harbor." The most likely cure is an organism known as "moosebait" that thrives in the depths of a Mexican superzone, on a site controlled by drug lords, mafias and fidelitas. Because of her generous experience there, Hille is recruited for a mission to descend 5000 vertical feet and recover a new sample—in just a week.

As if those weren't high enough, Tabor taps us off to the periphery of studies inside the National Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), who once lured Hille for espionage and later a vested interest in her assassin's future. This

being a thriller, the conspiracy interests to the highest levels of government.

Tabor's unerring narrative is almost *basically* busy. Chapters focused on the core expedition alternate with ones devoted to a heroic army doctor, to scientists striving to break the bacterium's genetic code, and to a slew of villains, ranging from dead-eyed psychos with special ops training to a Colonel member who ideologically believes himself on the Lincoln Memorial.

The life is paced like a summer action movie—and is sometimes just so hard to take seriously. The characters' oneness so fully to type that readers will quickly forget our the identities of the BARDA sides.

The dialogue often sounds like something pulled out of *Twilight* (2002). Emerich could have posed. And, by continually taking the action outside his star setting—in the cave—Tabor dilutes as unsettling force.

That is unfortunate, because the underground scenes are not just exhaustively detailed but novel and bristly. Tabor has made his Cave de Luz a virtual theme park of nightmares, from a 500-foot drop to a 300-foot tunnel to a world lake. Luckily, one of the expedition members, a shadowy government agent named Will Bowman, has brought a pack of high-tech gadgets that would make Q slither with envy.

However, in this 6-foot-4 with "unhiding eyes the blue of glacial ice," and he's super-drunken—in Hille's view. It's an apparent bid for the female audience, but has not merely crossed strong central women characters but turned his superzone into an unlikely setting for romance. There's a hint for this. In *Third Desert*, Tabor noted that some couples have indeed gotten



## FROM THE DEEP ZONE

"He says that the cave... Another world?" Argus is relaxed. "One that—how to explain that—contains what we call heaven and hell. Many enter the cave and never return. Those who do return are different."

[J] Hille is left gasping bumps two on her side. The old man was speaking the truth. On her otherwise into that cave, she had experienced exactly what the legends described. One of the hydrogeologists, a hard-core scientist had a field when they entered Cave de Luz. It manifested with frightening speed, becoming a pressure in both lungs before they touched the cave's bottom. The first had not disappeared, it was instantly possible that he would not have to die it out of the cave in any case. Another of the men had finished her—just lightly matching offense—during their trip down to Mexico. The deeper they went, the more powerful the cave became, the more resistant her actions, and the more the cave kept going with her. She was in a cave that had made her enemy. That man too, had disappeared.

bury underground. But those caves didn't have a way to save humanity, and it's hard not to giggle at passages in *The Deep Zone* like this one:

[H]e peered straight into her eyes and held his gaze there and, away though it seemed, one mile deep in a superzone, on a mission that could save hundreds of people from horrible deaths—or not, if they failed—Hille decided he was going to kiss her.

It's as if, an hour into *Contagion*, Lawrence Fishburne, stopped bawling quarantine orders to give Rose Winslow the back of his hand.

Tabor's prose rarely goes this far, though it does indulge in a few too many sentences like "I've got GPS weapons on the line in a HUD on my NVRs." But then, *The Deep Zone* is a thriller in the mode of Michael Crichton, who was never celebrated for his turns of phrase, and all the author really needs to do is keep readers hooked while satisfying their appetites for science-y stuff.

That Tabor does, for the most part. But he might have done well to bypass some of the firefights and Sondheim villainy in favor of more time in the cave. A passage to the bottom of

the Earth that "breathes" like a living organism, plays tricks on the human mind and hides creatures with the potential to save us from super-bombs—afraid it's not just thrilling but real. The novel's well-worn thriller tropes pale by comparison. **D**

For more on *The Deep Zone*, visit [www.margot-harrison.com](http://www.margot-harrison.com). Or follow her on Twitter @margot\_harrison. [www.margot-harrison.com](http://www.margot-harrison.com)

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NO COVER

**A**fter 25 years of biding its and around Burlington, Fattie B (aka Kyle Thompson) has a lot of good stories. And many of them — like the following one — aren't exactly suitable for a family publication.

(Warning: The next several paragraphs are rated NC-17. If you're probably, or easily offended or embarrassed, please skip ahead kindly.)

About seven years ago, Thompson was spinning 1980s pop hits for a raucous throng of weekend warriors at Metronome, so he'd done each Sunday night for 13 years. The long-running weekly dance party at Club Metronome in Burlington continues to be noted for its neon-dappled Top 40 tunes and its status as one of the city's "meat markets." From his perch in the club's cramped DJ booth, he'd watch a typical scene unfold as an unfolding sea of debauched revelers grand-bog and groping to say "Crush Summer" by Run-DMC or Cyndi Lauper's "Girls Just Want to Have Fun."

"You're basically seeing from the top of the chest to the top of the legs," says Thompson of the porthole that offers a view of the dance floor from the booth. "You have to lean down to see anybody's face. So you never really know who is in front of you."

Thompson recalls it was a hot summer night, which meant the second-floor club was positively sweltering — the crowd a jiggling mass of bosom, cologne and overheard banter.

"It was, like, 100 degrees in the club, and I had a buddy in the booth with me. We were laughing at this guy grinding some girl right in front of the window," says Thompson. "There's people all around them, but they're just grinding away," he continues. "All of a sudden, she flips her handkerchief up and rolls her underwear down."

That thing you're thinking couldn't possibly happen now? It's about to happen. (Seriously, skip ahead if you're a little bit prudish.)

"He whips out his dick, and they start having sex, like, right in front of the window," Thompson says, a Cleveland grin creeping across his face.

(I told you to skip ahead. But since you've made it this far...)

"I started to say loudly and said, 'Watch this, I'm gonna see with this.'"

Thompson began adjusting the speed of the track.

"And he starts going faster and faster," he says.

"Then he slowed the track down. And sped it up again. And slowed it down, watching to the couple frantically tried to keep pace."



# Silver Lining

Fattie B celebrates, and somewhat rue, 25 years behind the decks

BY DAN ROLLES

After the song, Thompson grabbed a stick he kept in the booth to ward off dancers who got too close, and it took through the window and poked the would-be John Holmes to get his attention.

"I said, 'Listen, I'm gonna give you one more song to finish up, and then I'm gonna tell security.'"

The song finished — as, presumably, did the couple — and the guy peered through the window. "He says, 'Thanks, man,' and disappears," Thompson recalls.

"Only at '80s night," he adds, clearly chastened.

While that an amusing — and extreme — tale, not all of Thompson's stories have such, ahem, happy endings. For instance, there was the time a drunken bachelorette jumped her cocktail on his brand-new music because he hadn't played her entire list of requests quickly enough. Or every time someone asked to hear "Girls Just Want to Have Fun."

"God, I hate that fucking song," says Thompson, rolling his eyes.

On Friday May 11, at Club Metronome, Thompson will reach his silver anniversary as a DJ. That's a long time to do anything. It's an achievement. But in a conversation with *Seven Days*, his obvious Thompson approaches the milestone with mixed feelings.

"I love it, and I... well, I guess I just haven't," he says of his trade.

Thompson is something of a local mogul. In addition to DJ'ing, he's been the MC for a number of local hip-hop bands, most notably the successful and -yes, hip-hop fashion outfit Belsheko, which gained national renown in the 1990s. He was the owner of a popular hip-hop fashion and culture boutique in Church Street called Stone. He's an accomplished artist and graphic designer. And, especially among local musicians, he's regarded as Vermont hip-hop's elder statesman, a guy of sorts to the current generation of artists. But he's

best known to the public as a DJ, specifically at the decidedly carnivorous outlets of Metronome and its weekly sister session at Metronome, '90s Night.

That makes Thompson a custom figure. He's the Burlington DJ equivalent of Crash Davis, the fictional lead character in the classic baseball movie *Bull Durham*. Davis, played by Kevin Costner, is the all-time minor-league leader in home runs, which, as he remarks to Susan Sarandon's character, is "a dubious distinction." Dubious because, while it means he's had success and longevity, he's hovered there outside the majors.

That's not a perfect comparison, given that Thompson has experienced so much success beyond DJ'ing, and in art and music generally. But it works because both Crash Davis and Thompson ultimately love what they do and are bound to it, even though the voyage may not always be what they had in mind when they were younger.

"I love sharing music with people."

# I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE TYPE OF DJ WHO WANTS TO TURN PEOPLE ON TO STUFF THEY DON'T KNOW.

DJ FATTIE B

says Thompson, who also regularly DJs at 1/2 Lounge and, in the summer, at Broadwater Café, where he's been free to expand his tastes beyond the jukebox and dig into his own favorites. "I've always been the type of DJ who wants to turn people on to stuff they don't know. If you like this beat, you should check this out," he says. "I love that aspect."

Thompson himself was first turned on to DJing at a seventh-grade dance in his hometown of Bristol, Vt. A high school senior was at the deck.

He was mesmerized. "The minute I saw how he had his setup going, and how the crowd was reacting, and that just by playing music he's commanding the whole room, so easily!" recalls Thompson — "he's making all these people so happy, and all he's doing is buying records!"

Thompson was hooked, fascinated by the DJ's ability to be the life of the party.

"I was really interested in the power aspect of it," he says. "You really do change someone's day or week or month, just by playing one song they really like or maybe haven't heard. That's a cool concept to me."

Thompson describes his first DJ setup as if it were the electronics section at Goodwill.



Photo © 2005



Photo © 2005 Thompson 2005

"I had, like, one tape deck, an eight-track player, one turntable," he says. "I'd just make mixes in my room. I'd even make with, like, two cassette, using the pause button to try and beat music."

His first real gig was a monthly semi dance party at Kiley Hall in Bristol.

"It was something for kids who had nothing to do on the weekend to have something to do besides cause trouble," he says. "I knew I was causing trouble so if we could keep 90 or 100 kids off the street, it's a good thing."

Thompson's fascination with DJing led him to the nightclub Border, which later became Club Minuteman.

The former had a weekly teen night, the Young and the Random Dance Party, which Thompson attended religiously to pick the brain of club owner and DJ Ted Warner.

"I would bug him constantly about records I didn't know," says Thompson. "I'd bring a pen and paper and write down everything he had."

From the era of these handwritten lists, Thompson progressed through unmemorable gigs at virtually every club in town, past and present, and now he finds himself on the precipice of a quarter-century behind the decks. "To my delight, and horror," he jokes. Sort of.

Thompson says he's often fantasized about getting a "real job" — he was a graphic-design major at Champlain College and still does freelance work in that field. After playing in a touring band and working as a DJ, he doubts he could ever come in a 9-to-5 9-to-5. The 41-year-old is now married and looking to buy a house, and sees children in his future. DJing doesn't come with a retirement plan or benefits. Staying out until 3 a.m. is not behavior recommended by *Parenting for Dummies*.

For now, though, Thompson finds the DJ lifestyle too good to give up. So is the income. "Why would I work 40 hours a week when I can work 10 and make more money?" Thompson asks rhetorically. Even his folks appear to agree. "My parents are always like, 'If you quit, you're an idiot,'" he says.

"It's made me a lot of money and it's a fun job," Thompson continues. But he admits he sometimes has hard visions of how it might all end. "I have dreams of a packed house at quarter to 2 in the morning, and me shutting the music off, and people are like, 'Hey! What the hell?' And me pulling out a gun and blowing my limbs out, going out in a blaze of glory."

(Or maybe just dropping the needle on some Cyndi Lauper, one more time. ☺)

1. Fattie B performs his 20th anniversary DJing at Club Minuteman on Friday, May 11, 10 p.m. Free clubwear and more.

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THE THIRD ANNUAL

# Restaurant Week Diaries

Seven Days eats Vermont — and writes about it

BY SEVEN DAYS STAFF

**A**nother year, another dining bachelorette. At least that's how Vermont Restaurant Week can feel as we peruse 40-plus menus and shoot out our circuits trying to decide where we'll go, when we'll go and how on Earth we'll fit it all in.

After the sugar overload of Thursday's Sweet Start Smackdown, we traveled slightly, but a few Seven Daysers bravely ventured back into the calorie-rich fray to sample the goods. Here are their tales — from Burlington to Bethel, Mendon to Newport.

## Trespassing Forks

Restaurant Week is a great opportunity to eat at one of those spots you've never been to but always wanted to try. However, for my first dinner of the week, I visited an old standby — **L'Amante** in downtown Burlington.

My friend Matt and I made a reservation for the Italian restaurant's dining room, a sleek space with banquettes along two of the pale-green walls. Ultimately, though, we opted to sit at the cooler bar, which is my favorite way to dine there. The weekend bartender, Lisa Dolores, is gracious and knowledgeable, and sitting in close proximity to strangers makes for great people watching.

While we like to drink wine, Matt and I are not oenophiles, so we let Lisa pack a bottle for us. Our neighbors at the bar, a white-haired, professorial man in his 60s and his much younger daughter, did the same. "I want a big wine, under \$10," the professor instructed Lisa.

"Under \$40," his date corrected him. "Under 20," the professor countered. "Yes," his date told him, shaking her head, "we're living in-la-la land."

For our first course, Matt and I split the fried potato and a salad. The former was a Pick Up Sticks-style arrangement

meat sauce. My supposedly vegetarian friend Matt ordered the asparagus ravioli with mushrooms and sage, which he claimed was delicious, though his fork spent more time on his plate than his own.

"Don't fill up on pasta," his advised,

**"THE BEANS ARE ROCKING WITH THESE BITTER GREENS," THE PROFESSOR'S DATE RAVED ABOUT THE CREAMY CANNELLINI AND BROCCOLI RABE.**



of lightly battered and fried vegetable spears drizzled with a lemony vinaigrette. The latter, a stellar version of the bean-and-potato-chowder-and-green salad that seems to be a staple of most menus these days.

The second course, or primo, was pasta. I opted for the *penne l'antiqua*, a standard on the regular L'Amante menu that I cannot stop myself from ordering nearly every time I eat there: perfectly al dente pasta in a slightly spicy, creamy



Cosme Bakery & Café

and I wish I'd berated him (see "cannot stop myself" above). Based on the season we'll soon so far, I assumed that the third course would be a small plate, but what arrived were full-size entrees. Matt had the fish, while our fellow barflies and I all got the porchetta, roast

pork cured around herbs and bread and then sliced, jelly-roll style. "The beans are rocking with these bitter greens," the professor's date raved about the creamy cannellini and broccoli rabe that accompanied the porchetta. But while the pork was wonderful, at this course it was my fork trespassing on Matt's meal: a slab of lightly seared, grilled swordfish served over a saffron risotto with and asparagus that tasted like spring.

L'Amante's Restaurant Week menu doesn't include dessert, but we would have had to turn it down had it been offered. We left our forks! Restaurant Week meal sweet and happy to have spent the evening at a mid-and-mid spot. Now onward, to discover new favorites!

KATE O'NEILL

## Written in the Stars

A duck drumette does not look like a duck drumette. It's bigger than a chicken leg, too, though similarly shaped. The sight of three atop a pile of perfectly lined-and-glazed-toasted, thin-style slaw was more than a little impressive. But don't how it goes at the new dinner service at **Cosme Bakery & Café** in St. Albans.

The breakfast-and-lunch entry expanded to include the third meal last month. Just in time for Restaurant Week, Cosme is now serving its previously weekend-only dinner from Tuesday through Saturday New

RESTAURANT WEEK DIARIES | 947

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# **||** **SIDEdishes** BY CORIN HIRSCH & ALICE LEVITT

## **Bravo for Nick**

BURLINGTON GLED OFF APPLING ON NEW SHOW  
As one of 12 contestants on Bravo's new program "Around the World in 80 Plates," which begins airing May 6 at 10 p.m., **NICK LACASIE**



NICK LACASIE

can be seen traveling to cities around the globe and running a gamut of international culinary challenges. The native of Burlington's New North End says his **NEW ENGLAND CULINARY INSTITUTE** training prepared him well for the experience. "Working under a chef like [NBC's original executive chef, **BOB ROY**] is an incredible [chef-instructor] **ANALOGUE**, when I was in France, [even though] I don't speak a word of French, I knew you could get by as long as you say 'hi with a French smile,'" he jokes.

When he isn't on camera, Lacasie, 31, is executive chef at the Drawing Room in Chicago, where the style of his cuisine won't be out of place back home in Vermont. Seasonal diet and creativity are paramount for him, says Lacasie. Those values show in his dishes, such as spring lamb breast with caramelized shallots, roasted asparagus and stem cobs.

Before NECL, Lacasie got his start as a dishwasher at

the now-defunct Dockside Restaurant. After that, he put in four years at the **BALU PLANT** supporting chef **FRY FARMER**, now of **ANJOU'S ITALIAN** in Colchester. Lacasie bounced between kitchens in Burlington and Seattle before

landing in NECL. While in culinary school, he interned at Hagis in Portland, Maine, with James Bond. For his latest award-winning chef Rob Roy, he stayed at celebrated New York restaurant Tilda and Aureole. From the chefs of these three establishments, says Lacasie, he learned "endless creativity and respect for the product."

Lacasie admits he generally returns to Burlington only "for weddings and family," but this summer he does plan to hit the Queen City for a visit. His must-eat list includes **ROY** (where he'll order his usual antipasta salad with extra salmon) and the bread-n-roll **PIZZERIA LOVES** (a food truck owned by his lifelong pal **IAN JENNIFER** and **LARNA PERE**). Get your autograph pen(s) ready.

— A.L.

## **Counting Blessings?**

VIRGINIA AND CALIFORNIA FALLS FROST DAMAGE  
From state spring through his coasted dairy plants, late on early March. So the producers of a series of hard freezes this past weekend had the state's fruit growers nervous about experiencing a replay of the devastating frost of May 2013, which damaged fruit crops statewide.

According to the National Weather Service, the mercury dipped lowest on Friday night — to 23

## **Bakery Fresh**

LESSER CULINARY RESORT & SPA'S INTERIOR IS OPEN

In its year and a half open, Easton's seat from serving homestyle Italian cuisine to upscale contemporary. The space at 21 Essex Way in the **ESSEX SHOPPING CENTER** will make an even greater departure on Monday, May 7, when it reopens as the **WILLIAMS & WILLIAMS**.

The bakery will open its doors at 7 a.m. and serve breakfast sandwiches and pastries made daily by new **ESSEX CULINARY RESORT & SPA** executive pastry chef **WILLIAMS**. Williams is best known as the founder of Wakebury's now-closed Center Bakery and as a wedding-cake creator extraordinaire in her own Vermont Cake Studio, also now defunct.

Early-morning options at the bakery will be served on Williams' housemade English muffins or croissants and include egg-and-chess or sandwiches with ham, bacon, veggie sausage or portobello mushrooms. Quick-service lunches will range from Cobb or Noyme salads to sandwiches such as turkey and brie and BLT with garlic mayo — all available cold or grilled.

Everyday sweets will include sticky buns, cookies, fruit pies and tarts, with individual cakes and tarts popping out at \$4. Dinner planners can pick up full-size cheesecakes, carrot cakes and flourless Chocolate Devotion cakes filled with chocolate mousse. Williams will continue to create special occasion and wedding cakes in order.

Crossers in the summer are a no-brainer, but the ones at the Essex Bakery will be available all year and made on a greenhouse-free base from the **ATLANTA COGNACARY CHARMERY**. Don't expect to be limited to chocolate and vanilla, either. Williams says she's offering croissants with local maple to start and will add flavors such as strawberry and black raspberry as they come into season.

Treats aren't all that Essex Culinary Resort will be offering. As soon as June, Williams plans to start up work **CHAMPION FARM**, which is the Essex's Cook Academy, to offer classes a few days a week after the bakery closes at 10 a.m.

— A.L.

degrees in some parts of the state — giving the cold snap the potential to devastate blooming fruit trees and grapevines. Conditions of 25 degrees (not damage) 70 percent of an apple tree in full bloom.

At **CHAMPION FARM** in Shoreham, owner **WILLIAMS** and his employees tested out wind machines and a tractor-driven fan to fight the frost, as well as burning ground dry beds. The logic was "to generate some heat and some convective movement of air, so potentially the smoke would not cloud over," says Sibley, who checked

temperatures every two hours and checked a low of 26 degrees on Sunday night.

Sibley says different blocks of trees were at different stages of development — from what's called "pink" to full bloom — and some have visible damage. "There's only as much you can do to talk Mother Nature," he says.

In West Charleston, a few miles from the Canadian border, **ALAN LEECH** of **LEACH'S** says he's noticed some browning on the new leaves of his apple trees. She won't know the full extent of the damage for 48 hours

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food

## Restaurant Week Diaries

England Ciderery *brutally-trashed* chef Nicholas Smith is already pulling out all the stops.

The salad of cabbage, carrots and cucumbers was irresistible, but the meaty wings themselves were the clear star of the first dish I tried. The sticky, sweet-and-spicy duck would have been a dish worth returning for at Vermont's best Thai restaurants. However, Smith's menu consists mostly of elevated comfort food.

The same at Cosme is certainly honey. On Friday night, groups of all ages, from infants to senior citizens, packed the small cluster of tables at the front of the bakery, enjoying their food to the acoustic rhytms of rock band New North.

Though curious about the veggie talk, scallions served over Israeli couscous, I couldn't resist the disparity of an elegant rack of lamb cooked in the back of a bakery. The meat was an ideal match.

Underneath with a packet of crisp, salty fat. Its doggy-poodle color was reduction was sweet and fruity, a great foil to crunchy, butter-poached asparagus. It all rested on a gigantic pile of the same horseradish potatoes that filled the petite, pink, twice-baked potato bliss we'd tried as a starter.

My boyfriend was thrilled with his pile of potatoes, too—a hard-cut, honey-butter fries. Those in us fryer at Cosme—yet. For now, Smith says, he craps up every batch of deep-frozen, smother-style spuds in a deep pot. They accumulated meat loaf in a sweet, tomato-based sauce with just a hint of spice.

Smith is passionate about making delicious options for diners on vegan or gluten-free regimens, and several dishes at Cosme fit the bill. I tried the veggie crumble beef. The texture was slightly more gelatinous than crumbly, and it reminds me of Asian desserts I love with a Vermont touch of maple. The maple cheese sauce with a gluten-free nut crust, a contender at the Restaurant Week kickoff Sweet Street Smackdown, was light and creamy enough to capture even a cheesehead later. For \$18, my three-course dinner made me a convert to nights at Cosme, too.

ALICE LEVITT

## Channeling France on Church Street

On a nippy Friday evening, **Church & Main's** cozy, velvet-curtained dining room was welcoming. So was the lighting, the appealing menu on the second system—a sort of chef/sommelier/world mix—and the friendly host. My companion and I studied the pre-fixe menu to make our dinner selections before choosing a wine. Our waiter proved a capable sommelier, patiently describing a number of options and carefully considering the pairing with our meals. In the end, we chose a Chateau d'Apreville rose from France's Loire region. With a rich-pink hue, it



Church & Main

was delicious and surprisingly complex.

For appetizers we settled on the exotic-sounding Wild Mushroom Cappelletti and the house-cured smoked grivets. When it arrived, the former looked rather strange: a brownish, creamy soup with a green blob—a splash of cream foam—an egg. But the combination of taste was exquisite as did our second off to a happy start. The grivets were scintillatingly salty and robust, served on rolled-up shavings with a nest of crisp shaved asparagus, tiny trout points and a dollop of sauce grivette, which is basically finely minced egg salad. Again, the combination of flavors was inspired, even if the ingredients were difficult to assemble together. My companion had the clever idea of forgoing the taste and making a "wrap" with the smoked salmon.

Our entrees were potato-crusted day-broiled cod and grilled chicken Statler. The crispy potato was a delicious contrast to the pillow-soft fish. Though the menu did not mention chicken, there they were, along with the advertised kale and sausage. The finish, a cheese-mashed paprika oil, added a subtle kick. The chicken came with fiddleheads and roasted radishes (they taste more like root vegetables, which, come to think of it, they are). Oh, crispy

# SIDEDISHES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

"Compared to other parts of the state, we're not as far along in terms of development," Leper says. "We're still in the stage of fight cluster." But she is "anticipating 30 to 40 percent impact."

The NYS says transportation this week won't even flirt with frost, so let's hope our growers deliver the buds.

—C.H.

## Crumbs

This weekend is the third annual **WATERLOO** a cake and anniversary party at Managlieri's **PAVE POINT TAVERN**. This year, the event will take over a block of Langdon Street and include a special treat: **THREE PAVES ESPECIALLY**, a "massively topped and dry-bopped" IPA brewed during a visit that Thru Pave's three owners made to **MAN LAFRANCE**.

at **LAWSON'S FINEST LIQUORS** in Warren.

To balance out some of the higher-alcohol ciders on offer, the trio intentionally gave them a low alcohol content, 3.5 percent. Half of the batch will be bottled and sold on all the usual places you find Lawson's Finest Liquids, and 1/3 from each side of Thru Pave. Expect this will go to **SURAL VENANCE**.

Memberships kick off at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 5, both in the street and inside the pub.

**VENANCE BUTTER & CHEESE** CRANBERRY produces taste good, but the company is making stuff a name for doing good, as well. **Calculus for ALABAMA** **HOPPER** has just another Terry Ehrlich Award for Social Responsibility in Business from Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility.



Allison Hooper

"Allison Hooper has been a skilled and tireless advocate for fostering sustainable economic development in the agricultural and forestry sectors here in Vermont," writes Andrea Cohen, executive director of VBSR, in a press release.

Terry Ehrlich, the late owner of *Honnings Motor* News and a founding

member of VBSR, is the namesake of the award given to those who share his commitment to the guiding tenets of sustainable business.

The award will be presented to Hooper on May 14 during a reception at **EC190 Lake Aquatics and Wellness Center**.

—C.H.

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## A FINELY CHOPPED SMOKED-SALMON TARTARE LAYERED BETWEEN CRUNCHY BEET CHIPS WAS A SYMPHONY OF TEXTURES AND EARTH-AND-SEA FLAVORS.

surface was rich and flavorful, even without the fiddled peas.

We could have left unsat at that point, but dessert was part of the deal. We managed to make a passion fruit panna cotta and a lemon-peppercorn strawberry shortcake disappear within minutes. Neither was overly sweet; the panna cotta was light and tangy. Our amaretto vodka brought us two small glasses of peat, grain, which she sent down easily and brought this elegant, memorable meal to a classy conclusion.

**PAMELA POLSTON**

## So Composed

The peeps at Beth's **Harrington House Inn & Restaurant** were out

on a limb to take part in Vermont Restaurant Week—the further an eatery is from Burlington, the less likely it is to participate. So I wanted to drop in on this stretch as near the White River, where I thought the atmosphere might make for a romantic evening. It did—in my boyfriend and I made our way through the warm, of jewel-toned rooms, we felt like we were traveling back in time.

Since owners Rick Harrington and Fred Levy revamped the inn last year, it's been giving a pep for artfully composed and sometimes unusual morsels, such as Scotch eggs and pickled shrimp. The \$35 Restaurant Week menu seemed tame by comparison, but the



Harrington House Inn & Restaurant

dishes that arrived exhibited artistry and layers of complementary flavors.

For instance, a warm pea soup served in a colorful backdrop for the crisp-on-the-outside, succulent-on-the-inside cube of pork belly that floated in its midst. The soup itself—dotted with chives and plump peas—had the artistry and lightness of spring. Another appetizer, a finely chopped asparagus-infused tartare layered between

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## Restaurant Week Diaries

canaday beef chips, with a symphony of textures and earth-and-sea flavors, and was composed so meticulously it didn't want to disturb it. We couldn't resist ordering pickled shrimp from the regular menu, and they practically crisscrossed to us before, spraying tangy juices on our taste buds.

My main course, the "petite" beef tenderloin, tasted great but came steamed in an excess, lip-smacking red-wine reduction. The peppery pile of bacon-studded mashed potatoes hidden inside a grilled onion was a fun, theatrical touch. Another entrée, a plate of seared scallops, was subtle and tender, and the mushrooms sang on which they rested left the whole dish grounding, saucy notes.

For dessert, we broke one of the golden rules of dining, which is never to order the same thing. Neither of us could resist a maple cream brûlée, and we broke through the fragile top to scoop out the silky custard underneath. It was superb.

As we floated out the door on a tide of cream, pork, carrot, maple and wine, we were glad to be back in the middle of another Restaurant Week.

CONN HIRSCH

## Scallops, Piri Piri and a Date With Joann Rivers

It wasn't until early April that I realized I had booked the Sweet Spot Seafood on the same night as Joann Rivers' performance at the Flynn Center! While I knew some people would try to attend both events in the same night, this was not possible for me, so I was one of the Seafood's cognoscenti. Already resigned to the fact that my partner, Shawn, and I would not be among "the gals" at *Ms. Rivers* (possibly only) Burlington performance, I was thrilled to realize that Joann was continuing on to Rutland's Paramount Theatre the very next day.

We scoured the Restaurant Week guide to unearth a Route 7 eatery worthy of our date with Joann. A Rutland-bred coverlet recommended a restaurant just five minutes from the theater in Montpelier: Restaurant Week newcomer Red Clover Inn & Restaurant.

Though dining early isn't usually our style, Shawn and I arrived at the inn for a 6 p.m. dinner and were the first to be seated at the unassuming, cozy dining room. We chose a table near the tavern's fireplace, with a picturesque view of Pico Mountain. With its rustic-yet-refined

dining trunks, the inn's interior made us think of a cross between Moose Meadow Lodge in Waterville and the Kitchen Table in Richmond.

I opted for the \$35 Restaurant Week menu and ordered the housemade croissant as an appetizer and the grilled Portuguese steak as an entrée. Shawn went regular and ordered a scallop-and-lobster dish off the regular menu — he wasn't up for three courses, and seafood was calling his name.

The steak dish featured a plump fillet perched on a rack of thick, perfectly roasted steak fries dotted with Parmesan cheese. I was originally attracted to this dish because of the fried-egg topper, but I quickly learned that the thick, creamy gyo-pori sauce was the star ingredient. The pungent African spice packs a big kick then mellows, just in time for you to taste the delicious, perfectly cooked steak.

Shawn's scallop-and-lobster entrée



Le lobsterette



We ordered a bottle of paleo blanc from Oregon, then watched as several other diners fled to enjoy a special Restaurant Week meal. My croissant dish was served with roasted asparagus and shanku mushrooms steeped in a light, flavorful broth that paired well with our wine choice. Shawn had an uncommonly beautiful green salad that was easier to photograph than it was to bite into. The fries were lip, fresh and in need of ketchup.

was petite and delicate — easier in style to the mouthful appetizer I enjoyed. The seafood was fresh and buttery, but Shawn noticed that the lobster meat was a tad overcooked.

When I inquired our server, Thomas, for help in deciding among the three dinner choices, we learned that he had made



More food after the  
classified section PAGE 45

them all home? Shawn and I decided to split the pineapple-key-lime pie, and ordered a couple of espressos. The pie was deliciously tart, and the dollop of fresh whipped cream was dreamy. The place was adorned with a cheeky, cascaded alfombra of the Restaurant Week folk—nice touch!

Shawn and I were thrilled with our visit to Red Clover Inn. The dining experience felt like a true getaway and the right mood for an evening at the Penmont. Although Mr. Rivers' fare was much less refined than Red Clover's, her spicy humor did remind me of that delicious steak sauce!

DON EGGERT

### Northern Delights

I just like saying the word Minneapolis, but even better than saying it is watching the sun set across that lake while nursing a glass of well-aged chardonnay and some tender veal Stroganoff.

We drove nearly two hours to reach Le Belvedere, the elegant, sun-splashed bistro that opened on Newport's waterfront last winter. For months, we Stone Days food writers have wanted to sample a place that dishes out sushi, tapas and gourmet in a fairly corner of the state. So when **Le Belvedere** signed on for Restaurant Week, a visit was a foregone conclusion.

It's no bad that the day was cold and blustery, because the restaurant is lit by an enticing stone terrace that overlooks the water. Luckily, Le Belvedere also sports floor-to-ceiling windows, and the colder weather was a powerful draw. In the lounge, every pair of plush leather armchairs was filled with couples sharing bottles of wine and looking wistfully across at the last rays of sun disappearing over the water.

The caliber of the food matched

the atmosphere. For instance, the veal medallions that filled the Stroganoff were bathed in a creamy mushroom sauce and diked with green herbs. The duck tasted like the love child of macadamia and the best brown-butter bichon.

Also novel was a plate of salmon and sea bass fillets layered and then wrapped in sautéed romaine lettuce. The whole thing came atop an ethereal grapefruit-cream sauce that was tangy enough to elevate and balance the rich fish. A



sculpted cone of yellow rice added a Caribbean—or Indonesian—touch.

That duck's polar opposite came in the form of venison, coarse-textured, gooey and melting, in which it was hard to tell where the savory flavor of the game ended and the smoky tomatoes and veins of ricotta cheese began. The whole thing was so rich, I took most of it home.

Even still, we haven't dined a fish-tart round of chocolate-lava cake, molten and dark on the inside. The luxurious vanilla-bean ice cream that was served alongside wasn't an afterthought; like every detail of Le Belvedere's ambience and food, it hit just the right note.

COBEN HIRSCH

### Upstairs, Downstairs

Since the **Fernhouse Tap & Grill** opened in 2008, it's been perfectly content sipping brews at its outdoor beer garden or, in the colder months, in the downstairs parlor. Somehow it'd never been compelled to take a table upstairs and enter a proper menu. What finally enticed me? The promise of **Blitz Rail** Farm-potato chicken on the Venetian Restaurant Week menu.

Thanks to the seating in the spacious

**RESTING ON A BED OF DELICATE GREENS AND MILD BUTTERMILK AIOLI. THE MEAT WAS TENDER, THE BREADING LIGHT AND PERFECTLY CRUNCHY.**

basement parlor, a dimly lit bedroom that evoked a 1930s speakeasy, the wait for our table was not the obstacle it would have been at many other Burlington restaurants. Instead of having to crowd the entrance hallway or hover nervously at a packed upstairs bar, we simply headed downstairs and found two seats at a casual wooden table. Dignified of Colleen Gable and 162 Farmstead Floorer and some addictive apple-rosemary bar nuts awaited us for the next hour.

When we finally settled in at a cozy two-top upstairs, the restaurant was buzzing—and, frankly, as another round of brews arrived, so were we. I was stoked to start with the potato

chickies. Resting on a bed of delicate greens and mild buttermilk aioli, the meat was tender, the breading light and perfectly crunchy (if a tad too oily). My boyfriend's aioli, loaded with baby fennel and Dose's Lup chives, was fresh and creamy.


In preparation for the entrees, our server brought out a narrow wooden serving board holding ketchup, gravy, mustard, aioli and barbecue sauce. "It looks like a critique bar of condiments,"

my boyfriend barked. His veggie burger, topped with a cabbage slaw and garnished with a monstrous portion of fries, was full-spectrum tender and juicy with herbs, hands-down the best he's had, he said. My Maplebrook Farm ricotta gnocchi, dressed in a light springy-sauce, was soft and glistening. Each bite demanded I chew slowly to savor the texture.

By dessert, we were already beyond full. I feared for my rhubarb upside-down cake, which was served cold and rather dry—a troubling trend I've noted at restaurants. But it was revered when eaten in the same bite as the vanilla ice cream. My boyfriend's lavender panacotta, topped with citrus fraiche and paired with two buttery shortbread cookies, was light and silky. All told, it was a crazy-good deal for \$25 each, and we'll be back for the food again. ☺


CAROLYN FOX

Continued: Restaurant Week continues through Friday, May 4. See [www.burlingtonweek.com](http://www.burlingtonweek.com).



**Mexicali**

**Maple Tree Place • Williston • 879-9492**  
**Outside Tent with bar and Live music**  
**6 to 9 on May 8th**



**LIVE MUSIC PERFORMERS**

**May 1st**  
 \$3 Dos Equis Drafts  
 1/2 price wings

**May 2nd & May 3rd**  
 Milagro Silver & Congreou Sharkey's  
 Shaker included!  
 (while supplies last)

**May 4th**  
 \$2.50 Corona  
 \$2.50 Corona Light

**May 5th**  
 \$5 Margarita  
 \$4 Dos Equis Drafts  
 \$3 Corona  
 \$3 Corona Light

CINCO DE MAYO

## References

continued

converts

dense

1998a).

New

**THE DEEP-BLUE SEA** Trapped in a storm is our hope. A writer's efforts to understand what it's like sailing at sea from 1941 to 1945 in the *Thetis*. By David Shields. 2001. 192 pp. \$19.95. ISBN 0-395-90000-0.

**News 407** A's lawsuit against attempts to ban tobacco-related games and use vests in 2018 (see early 2018 coverage). [Cannabusiness.com](http://cannabusiness.com), June 14. [johndmurray.1202.com](http://johndmurray.1202.com) & 730 p.m. 54-7. [t400.24000](http://t400.24000)

*David A. Forde*

[illegible][illegible]

## 554a

**0494144n** Lung defenders, pneumoniae and cancer: using GAD65 with vitamin D(3) Mischak, Hellyer, Kalkbrenner and Henry Mammogram 1:10 p.16. Case And. 200 11.36.

Copyright © 2004 by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America. This book is printed on acid-free paper. 0-07-137450-0 (HARDCOVER) 0-07-137451-8 (PAPERBACK) 0-07-137452-6 (EBOOK) 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

**MAWHEEL PLAYGROUP** Teenagers entertained the volunteers as they continue to fix cars and wash cars. Send Northwest Portland Library mailers 10-11:30 a.m. Sun. July 22, 2006.

**HIGHWATER STORY HOUR:** David Johnson's paper and needle knapsack appropriate to Highwater Paper Library at 10 a.m. on Wed. at 1000 West 10th Street, Seattle.

**ADJUVANT STORY TIME:** Kuts up to age 6 went their partners for evening tales. *Archie & Friends Library* (Archie & Friends, Inc., 2005, \$10.95).

**PRESCHOOL RECOVERY PROGRAM** Discover the 3-year old's take on the outdoors with training about the adventures of the wilderness. Meet the Friends Nature Center staff and learn about the program. [www.friendsnature.org](http://www.friendsnature.org)

**CAUTION: STAFF COLLECT CHARGE & JAIL**

When the band members have names like

Critic Danusia and Trotter, you know you're dealing with the real thing. And acoustic instrumental Trix are about to get even more authentic with the addition of Shamus Begley, an accomplished West Kerry singer and recorder, a combination of youthful energy and old-school Irish takes on traditional Emerald Isle old-timey of a punkish twist. Do a little jig at Barra Green House's Celebration Series.



## In streamwater, nitrate and a brominated

loudness, Kharyn Aedy looks every bit the African diva that she is. Her songs evoke West African history through tales of ancient wars, colonial struggles and contemporary sub-urban workers. The references may go in one ear and out the other – Aedy doesn't have much chop in several languages, but English isn't one of them. And African, rock, electric blues and her love of shouting showmanship, that "Night on the Barbess" City Arts on Sunday

\_\_\_\_\_

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1000



## 11-604

Saturday May 5 8 p.m.  
at Barry Opatka House  
\$80 26 info 476 8888.  
barrypoetry@icloud.com

1. 本表由填表人填写，不得涂改。

Sunday May 8, 1:30 to 5:00 p.m., at NCHA Center on Washington, D.C. Free.

LIST YOUR UPCOMING EVENT HERE FOR FREE!

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

How should I do this? I've got <http://www.danaburke.com/sevenyears/070004>  
 so he listed how much money the name of the no. 1 Abbey de Scireton

#### CALENDAR EVENTS IN SEVEN DAYS

EMERGENCY AND FIRST AID CLASSES OFFERED BY CALIFORNIA FIRE SERVICE TRAINING CENTER AND STATE FIRE MARSHAL SERVICE ARE CONSIDERED FIRST CLASS. ALL WORKSHOPS MAY BE LISTED IN EITHER THE EMERGENCY OR THE CLASSES SECTION WHEN APPROPRIATE. CLASS ORGANIZERS ARE REQUESTED TO ADVISE THE EDITOR OF ANY CHANGES TO THE CLASS LIST.

## MAY 4-6 | CONFERENCES

### Say "Om"

Yoga and acrogyms, hands up! Here comes the fourth annual Burlington Yoga Conference — and if pre-set poses aren't your thing, you can still get in on the daywide search for self-actualization. The insightful pillar begins Friday with a yoga-dance workshop, doubling as a fundraiser for the Vermont Foodbank. Locals and interstates fly renewed exuberance provide one-on-one sessions, healing arts lectures and meditations quickly dig in fully throughout the weekend — and Saturday ends with the brand new Liberate Spring Gathering, a second dance party with music by Kosadek and DJ Hyfi, hoop dancing by Shakti Sankar and River Moon, and an Acro Yoga class. Buckle up, already.



Acro Yoga Workout

#### BURLINGTON YOGA CONFERENCE

Friday May 4: 4th Spring Kickstart Party Fundraiser 6:30-8 p.m., at South End Studio in Burlington. \$20 minimum donation. Saturday May 5: 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sunday May 6: 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m., at Owen Center LVM, in Burlington. 50% weekend pass. \$10 one-day pass for Saturday or Sunday. \$30-40 Liberate Spring Gathering. \$40 per single class/workshop. Info 988-3446 [burlingtonyogaconference.com](http://burlingtonyogaconference.com)

## Off Balance

back of climate change is a numbers game. Scientists have established that the safe upper limit of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is 350 parts per million. Our current figure is 383. Folks do the math on Sunday, when 380.org links extreme weather to that discrepancy in Wardsboro, the "keynote" location of a global day of action. Vermontans share stories and footage of Tropical Storm Irene, which "just happens to be one example of the very erratic weather patterns in Vermont today," notes volunteer Anne Dalton. A live-streamed rally with local leaders and 380.org cofounder Bill McKibben caps a day of panel discussions and environmental art putting our corner of the world in context.

Saturday, May 6: at various locations in Wardsboro Environmental art project and tree planting at Quince-Artisan's Farm, noon. "Stories From the Front Lines of Climate Change in Vermont" at Pioneer Park, 1-3:30 p.m. Connect live folks locally and nationwide group photo at Pioneer Park, 3:30-4 p.m. Free. Info 408-8322 [dave@380.org](http://dave@380.org) [world380.org](http://world380.org) [vnrain.com/the-data](http://vnrain.com/the-data)



**Saturday May 5**

# JUNGLE JOE'S WILDLIFE ADVENTURE

**3:00 PM**

*Presented by  
Cuddley Animal Hospital*

**At 10:00am for the kids family!**  
Special Admission \$10.00 (includes 100% of donation for 100% of the kids family) to the Cuddley Animal Hospital.

**Cuddley!**  
Join us for a special event at 10:00am for the kids family! to the Cuddley Animal Hospital.

## calendar

WED 02-07-16

**WILDERNESS CLASS** - Join us for a special event at 10:00am for the kids family! to the Cuddley Animal Hospital.

**CRATIFYING CHAIRS** - Join us for a special event at 10:00am for the kids family! to the Cuddley Animal Hospital.

**JACK COLLINS** - Join us for a special event at 10:00am for the kids family! to the Cuddley Animal Hospital.

**GRUBS 24** - Professional residential and commercial pest control services.

**PERFECT LINE EXCHANGE** - Join us for a special event at 10:00am for the kids family! to the Cuddley Animal Hospital.

**PAULIE HART** - Join us for a special event at 10:00am for the kids family! to the Cuddley Animal Hospital.

THU 03-08-16

**JOAN KAPPE** - Join us for a special event at 10:00am for the kids family! to the Cuddley Animal Hospital.

aport

**NASH HODGE** - Join us for a special event at 10:00am for the kids family! to the Cuddley Animal Hospital.

**MOONLIGHT WALK** - Join us for a special event at 10:00am for the kids family! to the Cuddley Animal Hospital.

**WISCONSIN WALK** - Join us for a special event at 10:00am for the kids family! to the Cuddley Animal Hospital.

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THU 04-09-16

**EVANS JAMES** - Join us for a special event at 10:00am for the kids family! to the Cuddley Animal Hospital.

**HAROLD HILDER** - Join us for a special event at 10:00am for the kids family! to the Cuddley Animal Hospital.

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food & drink

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health & fitness

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**For more information and scheduling, leave your name, phone number, and a good time to call back.**

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Fax 656-0881 or email  
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**NOVEMBER** On the way to the Arts, Broadway Center, 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 443-6431

**THEY TRICKED & TENDRIFY** Two Portland Whigs' reporter on the way to national politics. Vermont's Open House, 8 p.m. \$15. \$5 info: 452-4370

#### SPORT

**THURSDAY NIGHT HARTFORD** Meet the pros for a variety night along with changing rosters. Chase Brown Sports, Middletown, 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 443-6431

**IT must be accompanied by an adult. Information is provided upon request. Tickets available online. Info: 452-4370**

#### THEATRE

**AFTER DARK SPEAKER SERIES** In Connecticut, the first of the "After Dark" series. "The Piano and the Piano" musical. Open House, 8 p.m. \$15. \$5 info: 443-6431

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**teada**  
The Young Theatre of the Arts

Saturday, May 5, 8 pm  
Barre Opera House

Performers: [Names of performers]

Tickets: 802.475.5143 or www.teadatheatre.org

**UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT'S**  
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www.linesforthebody.com



**AN EVENING FOR ORCA** - Dinner, dancing, tunes by the brass band, a live auction, new songs by Corey Tuckale. 10:00pm to 1:00am. 1000 Lakeside. Tickets \$10. 508-333-6000.

**BUCKLE UP! TRANSFORMATION** - Suitcase has a party for the Burlington Police. 10:00 hours. 2100 Main St. 508-333-6000. Info: 406-7600.

**BALE OUT** - Pottery, paper and used items. 10:00 hours. 1000 Lakeside. 508-333-6000. Info: 406-7600.

**ONCE A MONTH CELEBRATION & BIRTHDAY AUCTION** - Fundraising for the Burlington Police. 10:00 hours. 1000 Lakeside. 508-333-6000. Info: 406-7600.

**EVERYTHING PRESIDENTS & BIRTH DAYS** - Opened and closed. 10:00 hours. 1000 Lakeside. 508-333-6000. Info: 406-7600.

**OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION** - 10:00 hours. 1000 Lakeside. 508-333-6000. Info: 406-7600.

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**BALE OUT** - Pottery, paper and used items. 10:00 hours. 1000 Lakeside. 508-333-6000. Info: 406-7600.

**ONCE A MONTH CELEBRATION & BIRTHDAY AUCTION** - Fundraising for the Burlington Police. 10:00 hours. 1000 Lakeside. 508-333-6000. Info: 406-7600.

**BUCKLE UP! TRANSFORMATION** - Suitcase has a party for the Burlington Police. 10:00 hours. 2100 Main St. 508-333-6000. Info: 406-7600.

## food & drink

**FOOD & DRINK** - This is a special event. 10:00 hours. 1000 Lakeside. 508-333-6000. Info: 406-7600.

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**May 12th 2012**  
10:00am to 6:00pm  
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For more information, please call Pam Greene at (802) 846-7164 or pgreene@mercycanncanncan.org

Mentor orientation begins May 2nd at 8:30am



May 12th, 10:00am to 6:00pm, 1000 Lakeside. 508-333-6000. Info: 406-7600.







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To recognize the Honorable Madeleine M. Kunin with  
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Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 2012

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
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\$40 Tickets  
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**Foundry**

**Sunday, May 13th • 10:30am-2:00pm**

\$22 Adults (16+), \$12 Kids (ages 6-15)  
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**Our Brunch Buffet Includes**

Roasted Red Pepper, Shitake Mushroom, Spinach  
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Gourmet Station with Your Choice of Fillings

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Crisp Cake Crusted Hotbed

"The Covenry" Roast Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus  
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**Call 802.988.2715 to reserve.**

**OWNER'S TABLE**

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**Enjoy Our Brunch Buffet, Including**

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# In Good Company

M. Ward talks about his new record, *A Wasteland Companion*

BY DAK HOLLES

**M.** Ward seems to be timeless. His weary voice is evocative, his slender guitar work transporting, whether he's performing solo, as Stevie Nicks with actress and singer Zooey Deschanel, or with Monsters of Folk—his all-star indie project with Conor Oberst and Mike Mogis of Bright Eyes and Jim James of My Morning Jacket. With pseudo-religiosity and an indie-circuit whoddy of blues, folk, and country, Ward comes across to place as they've never been but that feel familiar just the same. On his latest solo album, *A Wasteland Companion*, Ward mixes on a local level and attempts to connect with what he excessively loves at home.

Seven Days spoke with Ward by phone in advance of his show at the Higher Ground Ballroom this Sunday, May 1.

**SEVEN DAYS:** You were at Coachella this year. Did you catchholzgrün Tupper?

**M. WARD:** I did not. I was not playing that day. I played Friday.

**SD:** Any thoughts on the phenomenon?

**MW:** I've heard it's a very expensive idea. And I don't think music needs more million-dollar ideas. It's the same thing with film. You don't need multimillion-dollar effects to tell a story, at least not the stories I enjoy. Still, if people enjoyed it, that's great.

**SD:** Your album has a provocative title. Is there an explicit statement you're making, or do you prefer to leave it open to interpretation?

**MW:** I think the best titles are the ones that people are able to put together on their own. So I'm open to interpretation.

**SD:** I know it's a T.S. Eliot reference. And this is probably just my being weird, but for some reason every time I look at the title I think of German Kaffee.

**MW:** Right, right. Well, I like that angle, too. [Laughs] And I had not heard that interpretation, that the title was some kind of response to *A Prairie Home Companion*. But I really like that. I think you like the title on the head.

**SD:** [Laughs.] You're very kind. Much of the record was inspired by your travels and centers around the things you leave behind when you're away from home. Do you ever wish your touring schedule were less demanding?

**MW:** I think I'm the same as everyone. A lot of times when you're at home, you wish that you were somewhere far away. And when time when you're far away, you wish you were at home. I think that's just a very



human emotion. It's just a fact of life. But I do believe that music is able to bridge gaps, whether we're talking about groups, people, or moments in time. That's an element of music that I'm a little bit obsessed with and I keep going back to, for some reason. Especially making a poem to accompany time, whether we're talking about having a song and it taking you back to when you were 6 years old, or having a song on the radio that in some real way connects you to the 19th century. I'm fascinated. It's very mysterious. I'll never know exactly how that works. It has something to do with the brain, and it's been investigated.

And that's what's a lot of the record-making process is for me, delving deeper into these mysteries and realizing that you'll never get to the bottom of it and still stay fascinated by the idea, and stay inspired. It ends up reverting to kind of a lot of these records that I produce.

**SD:** You dedicated the track "Clean Slate" to the late Alex Chilton of Big Star. What did his music mean to you?

**MW:** His records have been a big inspiration for a long time. And I'm constantly surprised by how few people are familiar with his catalog. When I see talking to

journalists or acquaintances or friends, I recommend a song called "The Bird of Ed Gooch." That's a great place to start. Check it out on YouTube.

**SD:** I usually suggest "TS," but that's a good one, too. Have you spent any time with New Multitudes, the Woody Guthrie tribute that Jim James was involved in?

**MW:** I have not. But I'd like to hear it.

**SD:** Have you given any thought to doing that kind of project, not necessarily Guthrie, but exploring the "lost" songbooks of someone?

**MW:** You know, between making my own records and working with Stevie Nicks, that's a good amount of record production. I'm not exactly pounding the pavement for new projects.

**SD:** Lee Ranaldo from Sonic Youth is touring with you. What do you think of his new band?

**MW:** Well, Sonic Youth has been a huge influence since high school. And over the years I've become acquainted with Steve Shelley, who plays on my record. And Lee Ranaldo has a new solo record that I'm really excited about. But we've never shared a stage, so I'm excited to see what happens.

**SD:** I imagine, just as a fan, it must be pretty special to tour with one of your idols from high school.

**MW:** Absolutely. We just finished a West Coast tour with Fleetwood, and it completely blew my mind. Sonic Youth and Fleetwood were really the first live experiences of music I ever had. So to be able to share a stage with them was a honor.

**SD:** I really don't mean this as a back-handed compliment, but some of your favorite moments on your records are your covers. How do you reinterpret something like say, "Let's Dance" by David Bowie and genuinely make it your own?

**MW:** You deconstruct it. You start off with just guitar and vocals and see where that takes you. And when you deconstruct a song to that level, it's like things sag a building from the ground up. It's so fragile some prearranged production. It's all of a sudden a new beginning. ☺

**B** M. Ward plays at the Higher Ground Ballroom in South Boston through Sunday, May 1, 8 PM to 12:30 AM. The Los Angeles Band 2015.

# SOUNDbites

BY DAN BILLES

## Three Cheers

I adore Montpelier and wish I could spend more time there. It's artsy and trendy. It has great restaurants. It has a disproportionate number of bookstores and a great record store. And, of course, it has the greatest bar in the world: Charlie O's. It's a lovable, quirky little city. The kind of place you root for. That was a novel, it would be truly.

Not so long ago, Montpelier was an artistic and cultural hub that nearly rivaled its sister city to the north, Burlington. Obviously, due to the difference in size, they don't compete on raw volume. But per capita, you could make a convincing argument that the capital city's music scene was every bit as thriving as the Queen City's, and was perhaps an even more close-knit community, to boot. The Lamb Alley was housing houses and underground shows. The Golden Dome Musicfest Collective unfilled disparate parts of the scene under a banner. Every weekend, it seemed, there was something cool happening in Montpelier. And at the center of it all was the Langdon Street Cafe.

No, not a best friend home — and because we'll be taking an in-depth look into the aftermath of LSC's closing in a few weeks — between the cafe's shutdown in late last spring, it was a critical blow to the arts and music scene in central Vermont. Not that, mind you, that's changed the city's complexion. Most reports out of Montpelier over the last several months suggest that the scene is still recovering, and slowly at that.

While venues like the Black Door, Positive Pie 2, Charlie O's and, recently, Bagatelle have helped take some of the sting out of that loss, the buzz that existed around music in

Montpelier has quieted. But this weekend, Golden Dome music will bring some of a beer to our back.

The unique event is the **WHAT CHIFF BANGAL**, headlining at the Vermont College of Fine Arts Gymnasium on Friday, May 4. You may remember one of the last big shows at the VCA gym a few years back. It was some gypsy band called **GOLOS BORRILLIO**. I was there, and it was a all-around great night. Despite being a gym, it's a really place to catch a high-energy show. It's sort of like Montreal.

As for **WHAT CHIFF BANGAL**, it's a 10-piece brass band from my native Providence, R.I., who refer to themselves as — this is awesome — "Laidlike hardcore." In other words, they don't use any amplification. None. The band is loud enough on its own that it plays its bombastic mix of samba, hip-hop, Brazilian jazz and Balkan grooves as natural. They were the deeper hit of last year's Newport Folk Festival, and by pulling in **WEST-200**, no less.

There are a couple of solid post-show options, including the official after party at the Black Door with a metal band called **CHALK** — not to be confused with the Australian punk metal band of the same name. You could also swing by Charlie O's to catch one of my favorite new Burlington bands, alt-country troubadours **HELLY SHAWBROS**, and Seth Gilman's (**ON MONDAY OF MARCH**), the **DAVE MARTIN** tribute song project, **GRASP** (see below). Speaking of GW, they've got some new tracks up on their Bandcamp



page — great live internet bandcamp.com — and I approve.

Saturday, May 5, finds a perfect union of beer and... well, pretty much anything is a perfect union with beer. And in this case, the third annual **Montpelier Festival** marries delicious brews from Three Pines Taproom with the classic, *grass-bleeding* sounds of the **PROBANT FOLK** outside on Langdon Street. Follow up that afternoon boozery with a **Queer de Mayo** bachelorette in the farmers market parking lot behind Jubeth Center.

Sunday is All Species Day, an annual non-profits festival that includes a parade, Maypole dancing and the **Flask of the Goddess** pigment, which I imagine is like alchemy-control, except that the participants are dressed up as their favorite animals. Meow.

But wait, there's more! By Tuesday, May 8, you should have had ample time to shake the Montpelier hangover and/or find a way out of your animal costume. If so, maybe I suggest taking in the **NOVEL HALLS THREE** at the Positive Pie 2! The garage punk band has Vermont

roots — two members grew up here, including front man **PETE REMOND** — and has been making national waves with its latest record, *Stomp and Smash: Live at the Mystic Theatre*, released late last year.

## BiteTorrent

Mensville in Burlington, a collection of former slaves threatens to forever alter the landscape of Queen City beachfront when **Mahfud Moody's Fall Moon** Musiccade meets **Cinco de Mayo**. Saturday, May 5, the Musiccade brand's Sector's with an all-star lineup including local hip-hop heavyweights like **UNCOMMON SENSE** and local folk, **MAJESTY 2000**. Also, don't miss regularly **HOMER HOBBS**, and live body painting by the **WOMAN CAROLAN**. May God have mercy on our souls.

The Musiccade isn't the only place you can catch the **Hawaiian Canine** this Saturday. Body-paint artist **REBECCA CASH** will do a special afternoon session at — I swear I'm not making this up — **Mick's Southshore Grill** in Williston. Welcome to Mae's, indeed.

This week at Newton's, Metal

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**New Tradition** JOHNNY RAULES was born on the Mississippi Delta and steeped in its history blues and soul traditions from the moment he could hold a guitar and unleash a heartful howl. He has played alongside the stars of genre and is now widely regarded as one himself. This week Raule's plays three Vermont dates. Thursday, May 4, at the Rock Door in Montpelier; Saturday, May 6, at the Stone Church in Bellows Falls; and Sunday, May 7, at Club Metromaine in Burlington. Local soul and blues musicians, and Raule's good friend, **DAVE RELLER** opens each show. Raule will also play the Inman Episcopal Church in Morrisville on Friday, May 4.



THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SUNDAY // JOHNNY RAULES (BLUES, SOUL)



## TUESDAY 12 PM

**HERBY'S OLIVE BRICK TRAVEL**

George Brown at 17 Southtown and Glen Street 4:30 p.m. Free.

**MEETUS** No. 1000 Highway 400, 10 p.m. Free.

**RANDY BEAN** Queen City/Chapel Hill, 10 p.m. Free.

**THE DANCE** 1000 Highway 400, 10 p.m. Free.

**THE DANCE** 1000 Highway 400, 10 p.m. Free.

**THE DANCE** 1000 Highway 400, 10 p.m. Free.

## northern

**BECKENHOL** 1000 Highway 400, 10 p.m. Free.

## MON.07

## burlington area

**LO LOUNGE** Twenty-Nine Open Jan. 10 10:30 p.m. Free.

**CLUB MITHRINE** 1000 Highway 400, 10 p.m. Free.

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## Belle of the Ball

Blended with a bright, rich and expressive voice, **DIANNE REEVES** evokes an elegance and sophistication that few singers past or present can match. The four-time Grammy winner is widely regarded as the preeminent jazz vocalist on the planet, and a worthy heir to a legacy that includes iconic singers such as Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday and Nina Simone. On Tuesday, June 9, Reeves takes to the Flynn MainStage as a headlining performer at the 2002 Burlington Discover Jazz Festival.

## central

**SAGGIO** Open Mic 7 p.m. Free.

## TUE.08

## burlington area

**SELBOWNE** 1000 Highway 400, 10 p.m. Free.

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## WEDNESDAY BLUE ROOM (DJ

Open Mic 7 p.m. Free.

## central

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**SAGGIO** Open Mic 7 p.m. Free.



SATURDAY 11 DIANNE REEVES (L) 12:30 PM 5:00 PM

## WEDNESDAY BLUE ROOM (DJ

Open Mic 7 p.m. Free.

## central

**SAGGIO** Open Mic 7 p.m. Free.

**SAGGIO** Open Mic 7 p.m. Free.

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# The Price Is Right

Christine Price Gallery, Castleton State College

BY MEGAN JAMES



**B**ill Ramage knows his art. The artist has spent the last 30 years creating sculptural drawings and photographic works so enormous that precious few Vermont venues can accommodate them.

Castleton College's Christine Price Gallery is one of them. So it's fitting that Ramage, a retired art professor there, has cornered the high-ceilinged space — which is actually the lobby of the John and Susan Cusack Theater — since he transformed it into a gallery more than 20 years ago.

"We can be big and outrageous here," says Ramage, 60, exuding an infectious enthusiasm. It's easy to see that he's the kind of off-the-wall teacher who turns his students on to art for life.

Just be sure to call his art venue a gallery: "I get angry when people call it a lobby," he says.

On a recent visit, it is anything but an ordinary vestibule. Castleton art instructor Oliver Schenck has filled the space with his interactive sculptures, creating a wonderland of any size, the highlight of which is the "Wunderkammer" — an old-fashioned, round, carved iron filled with antique oddities and mysterious creations.

Visitors step inside to discover a mobile made of an old hinge, a shoe, a small

poopiey and a vintage Jet-O mold. On the floor sits an intriguing silver suitcase beside some sort of stove, from which emanates the gurgling sound of a radiator (or is it a gurgling train?). There's a rusty typewriter, a cigar box and a gnarled sea captain's steering wheel in front of a scratched-up mirror.

**WE CAN BE BIG  
AND OSTENTATIOUS HERE.**

BILL RAMAGE

It's difficult to resist touching everything: prying open the suitcase, grabbing hold of the steering wheel and peering inside the cigar box. Survey questions Schenck distributes at the gallery entrance reveal that he hopes visitors do interact with the works. Ramage says a recent gallerygoer told him that when she caught a glimpse of herself in the rear mirror, she was surprised to find herself smiling.

Outside the tent, Schenck offers other opportunities for play: a 6-foot-tall couple of wood that can be spun by pulling a metal bar, a "Rocking Wheat Pendulum," and a roughly 30-foot-high



Ferns wheel that rotates when cranked, causing brightly colored metal fish to loop around in place of passenger cars.

There's an advantage to showing artwork in a lobby space: A couple thousand people pass through over the course of any given show, says Ramage. Running an academic gallery has its perks, too. "We don't have to worry about a market," he says. "We can do anything we can be all over the place."

Castleton has a relatively small art department — only three full-time faculty members — so the gallery, as Ramage sees it, is vital to inspiring students to a broad range of work from professional artists. Plus, he says, "I think it's good to challenge the community."

Not every show is a hit, though. Ramage recalls one 15 years ago in which an artist wound black cushion tape around the inside of the gallery. Ramage overboarded a tour guide leading a group of prospective students through the space. "Usually, there's art in here," she said.

Ramage began his teaching career at Ohio State University, but moved to Vermont after the 1970 shootings at nearby Kent State. By 1976, he was teaching at Castleton and about to start the gallery, which he named after local artist and illustrator Christine Price.

Ramage has shown his own work here only once — once before it became a local gallery and once to mark his official retirement in 2007. "I make such uncomfortable work," he says with a self-deprecating smile. A recent drawing measured 30 square feet, bore 60 years ago, Ramage filled the Pyramid in Burlington with two roughly 10-by-60-foot panels.

Why so big? "My eyes are 60 inches off the floor," he says, as if it's perfectly normal to know the precise height of one's gaze. Ramage likes the richness of his work to occur exactly there. "It's all about perception and space," he says.

Trained as a sculptor at the Philadelphia College of Art and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Ramage says, "Actually, I think of all these big drawings as sculptures."

His face lights up when talking about the big ideas that fuel his big work. "Do you know that when we look at something, it goes to 30 different places in the brain before it becomes a conscious thought?" Ramage asks. "Seeing is just such a magical thing." ☐

**B** Christine Price Gallery, 90 Kennedy Hall west, Castleton State College. "The Capital of Cold" (series) will be featured in 2017 by Oliver Schenck through May 16, 4:00-6:00 p.m. [christinepricegallery.org/entry.htm](http://christinepricegallery.org/entry.htm)



BURLINGTON AREA ART SCENE: 45, P. 19

**PERMANENT ART** Cool imagery, photography from 1940. **IMAGINING THE ISLAND WORLD** Late 19th- and early 20th-century travel guide apply. **LAUNCHING THE** Selections from the J. Brooks Smith Collection. Through May 20 at Farmington Museum (404 Independence, info: 656-0790).

**PIERRE NEVALA** Black, black and white photographs, 1910-19. **JALALI PUNJABI** Oil paintings. Skopje. **WILLIAM WALTON** Oil painting. October. Through May 31 at BurlingtonAmerican South Burlington (info: 863-7593).

**POWELL ARTS EXHIBIT** A local high school participating in an after-school program in Rochester. Through May 30 at the Gallery at Phoenix Hotel (400 South Burlington, info: 770-1777).

**ROKI KIDS** "The Paper Forest," an installation of cutouts of humans, through June 10 at Wisconsin Welcome Center & Gallery in Wisconsin.

**TARA KATZ** Installation landscapes in oil, after repeated rain through the windows of a parking car. Through May 31 at Village Inspired in Burlington (info: 333-5438).

**JOHNMAN OUTSTANDING** Mandy May's a film that using inspiring photos of people, conceptual and happy film. In the New Media Series. **JOHN MAN** Installation. Considered and new to the film series. Permanent collection in through June 31. Through April 26 at Fleming Museum (24 Main Burlington, info: 656-0792).

**BRUCE EDGETT** Work by David Hoffman, Lydia McIntyre, Anthony Dunsen, Fendy Anne, Garmen, Jr. & Garmen, Anthony Fendy Tadiapolo, Ben Dunsen and Anthony. Through May 31 at Maine Building in Burlington (info: 863-7593).

**STRENGTH: JULIAN THOMAS** Collecting Light, nature paintings in oil, acrylic and mixed media. Through June 30 at Gaudin & Co. Private Shop in Burlington (info: 440-9005).

## new!

**WELLS ARTISTS SHOW** Beyond Limestone "work" in a variety of media. Through June 10 at Granite Gallery in Burlington (info: 421-6794).

**EDMUND PERRY** Sculpture. Robert Henson photographs, sculpture and paintings. From new art collection. Through May 31 at Sun Lane Gallery (300 Vermont College, in Putney (info: 261-7378).

**WILSON MOUNTAIN WILSON ART EXHIBIT** Work by John Wilson, Robert Henson, Robert Henson, Barbara Wilson, Robert Henson, Robert Henson and Gary Wilson. Through May 31 at Valley Art Foundation (Private Gallery in Northfield, info: 440-6541).

**HARRIS LANGRISH & BEN PERRY** "Small" collage work. Through June 10 at Main Street Museum in North Burlington (info: 256-0775).



**JOHN BRENDS & WENDY JAMES** Clay sculpture by Brenda and pottery and photography by James. Through May 31 at Governor's Office Gallery (information: info: 656-0790).

**KATHLEEN HANCOCK HANCOCK** Spring flowers with a series of paintings and pottery. Through June 30 at Working Light Gallery in Portland (info: 454-3275).

**LEAHNE LINDHOLM** Sculpture, oil paintings and ceramics with, through May 31 at Rock Hill Art Center (300 Mountain College, in Putney (info: 261-7378).

**LINCOLN HANCOCK & MISTY STODOLSKA** Sculpture. Artistic work. Through June 30 at Capital Counts in Montpelier (info: 440-6541).

**dug Nap** "You'd be hard-pressed to find a Vermont artist who doesn't know about dug Nap. But every would be surprised to learn that the prolific Burlington artist creates many of his witty folk-art paintings in an 'art bed'." "It like to be comfortable when I paint," writes Nap of the bed on wheels, which he slides under an easel. "It also has a swing seat, which holds my brushes and one of those art supplies, and was inspired by my dad's chair." Nap, whatever works. Catch Nap in action creating a new performance-art piece on the art bed — and browse his original paintings — in a show called "dug Nap's Shelf" at Burlington's Frog Hollow through May 31. Pictured: "Cellphone City".

**They may be old, but they are still brand new!**

**CHECK OUT OUR GREAT 1:11 MODELS ON SALE THIS WEEKEND!**



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## CALL TO ARTISTS

## NORTHWEST LARGEST COLLEGE

Join an art for teachers gallery at the request to create the World's Largest College Galleries has been selected. A 2009 show featured your hands, and will provide a benefit. The art show will be held at the opening reception on Friday May 15, 2009, and will continue during the opening reception on Saturday May 16, 2009 (10:00 AM - 5:00 PM). For more information, please contact: [info@nwcc.edu](mailto:info@nwcc.edu)

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**SUBARU RALLY** "Creative Challenge" welcomes all Vermont residents. Photography is at Montpelier City Hall. Info: 540-476-0000

**GLASS-ON-GLASS** & JESSIE WALKER "Tribute" an exhibition of 1700+ vintage glass objects and more than 1000 vintage glass collages by Jessica Walker and Linda Walker by Walker who were her grandfather's and her French grandfather's. Through May 21 at Quaker Antiques in Northfield. Info: 440-4130

**DAVEY** "Wishes in the variety of media" starting this Friday night 7 to 9 pm. "THE TEENY TINY" four to seven inch and six inch small sculptures. In the 1000+ program. **ALL ARTISTS** by the artist. Make the Gold. Through May 21 at Studio Place Arts in Burlington. Info: 405-7900

**THE HISTORY OF GORDON COLLEGE, AN ISLAND OF KNOWLEDGE: EXPANSION AND TRANSFORMATION.** "THE HISTORY" by the artist. Info: 405-7900

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Northwest largest college art show. Info: 405-7900

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**37th ANNUAL COMMUNITY SHOW** "Work in a variety of media" starting this Friday night 7 to 9 pm. "THE TEENY TINY" four to seven inch and six inch small sculptures. In the 1000+ program. **ALL ARTISTS** by the artist. Make the Gold. Through May 21 at Studio Place Arts in Burlington. Info: 405-7900

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art



**Harald Aksdal** After several decades working as an architect, Harald Aksdal returned to his first love: painting. The desire to document the natural world — especially gnarled and scolding trees — has always been with him. Aksdal vividly remembers seeing a tree through painter's eyes for the first time at the age of 8 or 9. "The need to draw it was so strong I can still see the deep texture of the bark and the seemingly endless crossweaving of branches and twigs," he writes. Aksdal now paints full time and is a member of the Vermont Watercolor Society. His colorful images of trees are in a show called "Colors, Lines and Dots" at Jericho's Emile A. Cragge Gallery through June 17. Pictured, "Quintanodo."

## Small Wonders

Inside this month's  
Baby & Maternity issue  
of KidsVT you'll find:

- Stories about local moms juggling jobs
- Advice on when to call the doc
- Tales from a two-mom family in Franklin County

by  
**kids**  
kidsvt.com

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content online on our website  
[kidsvt.com](http://kidsvt.com)

## DOWNTOWN GALLERY 508-93-4073

**STUDENT ARTS ON LOAN** The annual showing of drawings, sculpture, photography, paintings, prints, installations and video created throughout the year. Through May 27 at Johnson Memorial Building. Photography College, info: 443-2954.

## NORTHFIELD

**DAVID SAKIS** Landscape paintings. Through May 31 at Freshman Library. Info: 352-3294.

**GROUP FALL SHOW** Artists in a variety of media. May 1 through 17 at Julian Street ArtSpace Gallery, Johnson State College. Info: 333-1459.

**JANET NORDHOLM** Paintings that explore abstraction in nature through pattern, silhouette and color. Through May 21 at O'Brien Sculpture & Art in Montpelier. Info: 427-3553.

**JANIS CHERNOBYL** Series of dog-painting, mixed paintings. Through May 30 at O'Brien Sculpture & Art in Montpelier. Info: 352-3332.

**JENNIFER PETERSON** Prints from an "Lake Champlain" photography by the Vermont artist. Through May 21 at Johnson State Gallery. Info: 427-6025.

**MARGARET NEALE** Abstract art paintings. Through June 11 at River Park in West River. Info: 525-7043.

**MERRILL BENDISCH & JAMES RACE** Painting by the GALT artists. Through May 13 at ArtSpace in Montpelier. Info: 353-6036.

**MIDNIGHT STUFF** Rock n' roll gallery, which Laura Smith and Marc Chabotson, Danforth, Anna Olinde, Sarah Horne, History, Life, Love, and David Folstein. Through June 25 at River Branch Gallery & Sculpture Park in Stowe. Info: 253-8943.

**PERMANENT COLLECTION EXHIBIT** Work by Gaylon Allen, Curtis Vetter, Mary Augusta, Stephen Hanna, Stanley Warner, Emily Annand and Philip Fuldus. Through July 10 at O'Brien in Montpelier. Info: 427-6827.

**REARVIEW MIRROR** "Occult" Spirit's abstract paintings by the artist and artist. Through May 23 at River Arts Center in Montpelier. Info: 352-3393.

**SUMMER VIBES PALETTE: A HAPPY ART SHOW** Music-themed art work. Through May 31 at Village Frame Shop & Gallery in St. Albans. Info: 524-3633.

## REGIONAL

**FRANKLIN THE GREAT CANADIAN** A mixtape from the American expatriate's 1940s. Franklin, who spent most of his life in Germany where the Third Reich considered him as a "Mischling" artist. Through May 13 at Montpelier Museum of Fine Arts. Info: 354-7533-0000.

**WATSON TRANSPARENT: EDWARD BENTHLEY'S VERMONT QUARRY PHOTOGRAPHS IN CONTEXT** Mountain photography from Quarry, Eden and Carter's story. **MAN OF FINE: JOSE CLEMENTE, BRUNO AND JACKSON POLLOCK** Paintings, drawings and prints. Pollock is a portrait following his 1938 trip to Central America and Olinde's contemporary paintings for the most (through June 1). Through August 31 at Montpelier Museum of Fine Arts. Info: 352-3443-0000.

**STAR NAME: BENTLEY'S THE QUARRY** An interactive investigation into the career of Bentley's work. Star Name presents a multimedia and artwork from the Locust in Montpelier. Through September at Montpelier Science Center. Info: 254-686-6704.

## Tabbatha Henry and Sage Tucker-Ketcham

Because the two of them, Tabbatha Henry and Sage Tucker-Ketcham have been working so well for one gallery since May 6, they're taking over two — Montpelier's Portland Sculpture Gallery through June 8 and Burlington's Select Design through June 30. Their exhibit is called **TWO**/Tabbatha Henry and Sage Tucker-Ketcham, Two Artists, Two Locations, Two Mediums. It's composed of Tucker-Ketcham's multi-media, mixed-media structures and Henry's ceramic work, about which she writes, "Sunlight filtered through trees, the play of the shadows on the spiky leaves, seemingly random patterns in a pile of leaves or sticks, rainwater pooling on flower petals. These are the things that move me." Featured "Thinking Patterns" by Tucker-Ketcham.



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# movies

## The Raven ★

**O**n the morning of April 25, 1862, in Garrison, Indiana, named, "It was on this day in 1861 that the first detective story was published: 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue,' by Edgar Allan Poe." Realizing that *The Raven* would last them on a matter of days, I wondered whether the climax was a sign the filmmakers really knew what they were doing, or pure coincidence. Well, I have my answer: Nobody involved with this movie had the slightest clue what they were doing.

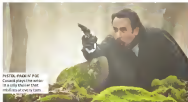
This certainly is one of screenwriters Ben Livingston and Hannah Shakespeare, whose idea it was to transform the author as an action hero. Their script takes as its starting point the historical fact that Poe was found wandering the streets of Baltimore uncoherently on October 3, 1849, and died a few days later. The pair worked backward from there, poring over to them in what *Poe* did during the days leading up to the third and thereby to explain his peculiar state.

Their solution to the mystery? Crime-fighting local police are baffled when a series of killings turn out to be copycat murders inspired by Poe's stories, and they seek

the writer's assistance in tracking down the madman responsible. Of course, this doesn't grant a lick of sense — having concocted the fictional crimes wouldn't give Poe an advantage in figuring out what inspired them in real life. Unfortunately for audiences, though, that's far from the film's biggest problem.

A bigger problem is that *Poe* is played by John Cusack. And let's be honest: Cusack isn't the actor's 6-foot-2. And whose idea was the idea? Cusack gives the most vulgar, mugging performance of his career, leaping from one poorly written scene to another. One minute he's doing his impression of a drunken genius, the next, grooving as Poe the great lover, and then, most absurdly of all, chasing a suspect on horseback while firing gunshots into the Baltimore fog. Did I mention they make him wear a cape?

Luke Brown hasn't it up as police inspector Emmet Fields. It's he who makes the connection between the gruesome crimes and Poe's plots and records the events as he in his investigation. Also *Poe* plays Kathy Hamilton, a golden-haired young woman (she appears still to be in school) with an improbable grasp of the by-the-time we reached



**POETRY: POE** OF POE  
Cusack plays the writer in a fully theatrical but mindless way every time.

up 40-year-old optum odds and nonsense. We aren't forced to tolerate her lack of acting talent long. Shortly after one of Poe's cool lectures to given the "Poe and the Pendulum" treatment, she's kidnapped during a muddled ball thrown by her father and imprisoned in a coffin under the bed guy's floorboards. It is "The Premature Burial."

What has any of this got to do with "The Raven," Poe's timeless poem? Not a thing. Among the other questions raised by this dreary costume-fest scene: What sort of hell did the poet see? Brendan Gleeson has to get him within a mile of the movie? And who is the feeble-minded filmmaker posing as *Poe* for *Hollywood* director James McTeigue? There's simply no way the creative of this picture created this one. (Unless he slunk into a

truce between projects, but I feel confident we would have heard about that on *EMILY*.) Never mind the genre and the cape — whose bright idea was it to give Poe a pet raccoon? I'm not making this stuff up.

Regrettably, however someone did. What the prison and the gilded artists who agreed to help bring the vision to fruition were thinking is beyond me. This is such goddamn nonsense that it could've been filmed last presented in the proper spirit, but there's nothing camp or tongue-in-cheek about the film. Movies today do not get more ham-handed and laughably dead than this. Nonetheless, Edgar Allan Poe is spinning in his grave. And somewhere, the folks who dole out Oscars are taking notes. ☹

**RICK KISDMKE**

## REVIEWS

## The Five-Year Engagement ★★ ★

**I**f you found an increasing phenomenon in reviewing movies: After any given film, critics are more likely to question their love or hate, while the actual ticket buyer's response is frequently "Eh, it's all right," as if they'd just engaged a perfectly good but not special fiancé.

This is partly because critics are picky (yes), and partly because we have to see a reviewer's on offer (drinking out and paying for a thick gross-out is none of our business), which only disappears when you get some thing you weren't expecting. That's *Five-Year Engagement*, too, which a movie and think, "Eh, it's all right." The problem is, that reaction doesn't make for much of a review.

Hence that overlong introduction to my review of *The Five-Year Engagement*, which is a perfectly all right movie. And "all right" is not even wrong — in people say on the internet. Directed by Nicholas Stoller and written by Stoller and star Jason Segel (the team behind *Key & Peele*), the film is funny and smart. As someone who may not adore comedies and — with a proposal — it captures all of the things that one goes along with a relationship between the ring and the title.

Segel and Emily Blunt play the engaged couple, Tom and Violet, a chef and a psychol-

ogist, respectively. Their proposal, they leave Tom a message and his upscale restaurant job for the University of Michigan, where she hopes to start her own career with a post doc. Violet quickly settles in, but the only job Tom can find is Ann Arbor in shopping deli called Inside a Party, in which deli (Chris Parnell) who practices himself "a public job."

That's about my most criticism, but it doesn't mean that makes *The Five-Year Engagement* just "all right." The stuff happening in the margins is consistently more entertaining than the center. What is cute and energetic throughout, and Segel does an excellent job with such which is Tom into late depression, but he's already played this role a few too many times.

Viewers may find their reaction wondering to the supporting cast. Another anomaly who watches NBC's Thursday-night lineup. Violet's sister and her daughter husband — Alison (Julia) of "Community" and Chris Pratt (of "Parks and Recreation") — are most scenes they're in feel happily with a whole more about that in the dialogue a couple of shots. Lauren Weedman's gravel-voiced Chef Kelly (she's Italian; plays films, *Julie & Julia*), Molly Shannon and others play in to offer their own unscripted, in-joke-style bits.



**LONG HAIR**  
The *Five-Year Engagement* stars comedy stars who aren't even that good and

As a dispirited comedy sampler, the movie shines. But as a whole, it's about as dramatically compelling as... a free press engagement. The films of Audi Aperture (she probably read in *murder*, but *Andrews* and *Knock* Up still had more at their core. In *Engagement*, there's so real suspense about whether Segel's character will be dumped, because previous movies have been used up to see him in the good hearted person who eventually gets his life in gear and gets the girl. Like it, so we learned last *Thinking... a Muppet of a man*, and who could react that?

This Hollywood introduction is a touch of irony, because Segel started his career as an actor. Aperture project, the TV series "Friends and Girls," playing a good-hearted character who goes on an out-of-the-logic girl, with her, always her and becomes something of a mother. Now there's the kind of irony relationship someone that evokes viewers' love. Some and painful laughter (Michele Segel) seems to relapse her dark side.) Which *Engagement*, the most one can say is that Tom and Violet could both do a lot worse than say together. Eh, it's all right. ☹

**MARGOT HARRISON**







**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) On these hard, you're facing a sticky dilemma that you may never be able to change no matter how hard you try. On the other hand you are engaged with an interesting challenge that may very well be irresistible to involve. Do you know which is which? Now would be an excellent time to make sure you do. I would be foolish to think working on anything a hopelessly biased knot when there is another path that will respond to your love and intelligence. So where you're wanted.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21) My father-in-law was told that I've shooed up just up his thoughts a disquieting. I wrote Richard Webster in his article "Psychic Animals." He needed only to think what he wanted to do to do and they would immediately do it. He is not to be careful not to think too far ahead. At this point would be on the edge. He is thinking at the time. To think ahead that there is a wealth of other unrelated evidence, as well as some concrete evidence, suggesting that doing respond to unseen commands. I happen to believe that the human animal is capable of doing up to things that are not seen and heard. And I suspect that, you're in a place when it will be especially important to take this into account. Be thinking about what you imagine, because it could end up in the realm of someone you know.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 21) Your right brain and left brain have many been said, but some people are saying that they are right now. Your present and your future have to be in a good collaborative process, as well, then your past and your future are mostly in agreement about how you should proceed in the present. To what do we owe a pleasure of this rather dramatic movement toward? Inspiration? Haven't one already? You're being rewarded for the hard work you've done to make good use of yourself.

**LEO** (July 22-Aug. 21) A South African-born was intrigued to discover an interesting link about the modern known as the elephants show. It much possible to turn the circle of people like this to ribbon an animal, but we must with apples and red dots. The elephant didn't investigate whether mountains goats would rather eat grasses and roses than ice cream sundaes or whether lions like

fresh-killed antelope better than Caesar salad, but his pretty sure they do in a related subject. Leo I'd like that, in the coming weeks you will seek to find yourself exclusively with the images, sounds, stories and foods that truly satisfy your primal hunger rather than the stuff that other people like or think you should like.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) There are only a very few people whose emotions were not investigated. They live in Africa, where someone says get it right. As for the rest of us, our Saturns wandered away from their original home and spread out over the rest of the planet. We all know that somewhere else! This is true in some other lives as well. In accordance with the astrological answer, I invite you Virgo to get in touch with your true heritage. This week it's an excellent time to acknowledge and celebrate the fact that you are nowhere near where you started from, what the newspaper that psychologically tortures you already.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) "When the good is very good," said Hollywood's original stars, Mae West, "but when it's bad, it's better." I think that sentiment might at times make sense coming out of your lip in the next two weeks. But it is to take a vibration that could also be seen by me. It's articulated by my reader Sarah, Deborah, who says, "When I'm good I'm very good, but when I'm bad I'm better." Consider trying out both of these attitudes. Look, as you navigate your way through the mysterious and sometimes unruly but that holds your way.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) The Ministry of Voodoo, my favorite source of L.A. news, reported on a recent development in the art world. An archaeologist found the lost arms of the famous Venus de Milo statue. They were languishing in a cellar in southern Croatia for nearly 50 years for discovery in 1928. The goddess of love and sexuality has been reconstructed. Very physical. Scientists decided their patients to examine bodies as a way to alleviate a number of different male ills. From testicles to arthritis. A few doctors continued recommending cigarettes as health aids into the 1950s. This bit of history may be useful to keep in mind. Scorpio, you're in a place when you're likely to have

CHECK OUT ROB BINGZAR'S EXPANDED WEEKLY



# Taurus

(April 20-May 20)

From an astrological perspective, it's the New Year season; you're beginning a fresh cycle. How would you like to celebrate? You could make a few resolutions — maybe pledge to even yourself from a wasteful habit or self-sabotaging vice. You could also leverage the universe to allow you what you need, so even realize you need to know. What might also be an interesting would be to compare what of the good habits you will promise to cultivate, and the expensive breakthrough you will work toward, and the story you pretty dream you will court and woo.

separate development, the redundancy of and redundancy with a strong part of you.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 20-Dec. 21) Some earthy, earthy physicians, sometimes advised their patients to consume tobacco as a way to alleviate a number of different male ills. From testicles to arthritis. A few doctors continued recommending cigarettes as health aids into the 1950s. This bit of history may be useful to keep in mind. Sagittarius, you're in a place when you're likely to have

success in buying down smokers for complaints of both a physical and psychological nature. But you should be cautious about trying an unconventional wisdom, and in case of a revelation, the idea that cigarettes are good for you. And always double-check to make sure that the cure doesn't harm more than what they are supposed to fix.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Outer space isn't really that far away. As someone who's used to just seeing it from here, it's an hour if you could drive a car straight up. I think there's a corporate situation in your own life. Capricorn, have you an understanding of how distant a certain goal is, and then realizing you have getting that thing done, achieving it. Be not saying that the destination would be a line to get to. My point is that it's closer than it seems.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) When most Westerners hear the word "milk," they assume it has something to do with cows. But the fact is that humans drink milk collected from sheep, goats, camels, and even farm and meadow. And many grocery stores now stock milk made from tapeworms, not almonds, coconut, hemp and oats. It's wondering if maybe it's a good time for you to make a comparable identification. Aquarius, you should really give up to the primal source of nourishment you have been depending on. Just consider the possibility that it might be fun and healthy for you to seek sustenance from some alternative animal or unexpected source.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) You wouldn't want to take a piece of art as an affordable statement, right? If you were a sweater, you'd have little interest in a Freudian cigarette. And while a mesh undergarment might look stylish, you wouldn't be foolish enough to expect it to keep the rain out. In the spirit of these truths, Pisces, I suggest you closely examine any strategy you're considering to see if it has a built-in contradiction. Certain ideas being a good idea, but you're going to ruin them by your own subconscious use, it may be inherently impractical to use in the real world.

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# RED MEAT

Butler's Biscuits for the Bismarck

From the comic strip of  
Max Cannon



Tiny Snarku @2012  
Dear Tiny,

I DON'T LIVE ONE OF MY CO-WORKERS SHOULD I TRY AND GET THEM FIRED, OR DO I NEED TO FIND A NEW JOB?

ANNOYED  
TINY (CRIES)



AND THEN IF YOU BRING IT UP WITH YOUR BOSS, IT MAY BACKFIRE ON YOU.



HOW IS YOUR NEW JOB?

YOU DON'T WANT TO BE THE ONE RESPONSIBLY FOR GETTING A FELLOW EMPLOYEE FIRED. THAT CAN ONLY BRING YOU DOWN.



ONE OF YOUR EMPLOYEES IS WORKING AT HARD FOR ME TO DO MY JOB.



SO TALK TO YOUR BOSS AND SAY YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY WORKING WITH THEM?



IF YOU'RE ENTIRELY ANGRY, LIKE THESE WORKERS ARE, THEY WILL RESOLVE THEMSELVES.



DO YOU WANT THE JOB? JUST ASK THEM?



WHY NOT? GET THE JOB. SHOW THEM NO WAY TO GET ONE OF US FIRED!!



FINDING A NEW JOB MAY BE THE BEST, AND A BAD OPTION OFFERED.



I GOT AN ANOTHER JOB OFFER AT A OTHER COMPANY. I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY GOT ME BEYOND AND CONTACT INFO.



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#### OUTCHPOINDED REHEARSAL AT 5PM

So ladies! happy to be at the 5PM! Staff made me wine! I could hold to the door again for you guys! **Friday April 23 2010 Where: 5 Burlington New Haven Mo. Hous: 400048**

#### PU (FAVORITE UNCLE)

Remember when I was a kid and we had pizza. I'd be and I would be the conversation with a vengeance (just wanted to say that we always come up with the 10:11 Pizza Party event) **Friday April 23 2010 Where: 5 Burlington New Haven Mo. Hous: 400048**

#### BARBERS & MOBILE LOUIS

I sat across from you today afternoon (NOT sitting at the table) at Barbers & Mobile. We were happy! I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. **Friday April 23 2010 Where: 5 Burlington New Haven Mo. Hous: 400048**

#### SPREAD SOME SPRINGTIME LOVE!

It would be nice for everyone of you to see the top and bottom of your legs and see how much you have many people doing the same. Let's see how many people doing the same. Let's see how many people doing the same. Let's see how many people doing the same. **Friday April 23 2010 Where: 5 Burlington New Haven Mo. Hous: 400048**

**obriens**

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#### GO SEE YOU

You know who you are! You're back! I just made back to back meetings. Come and see 10 events with a 10:11 Pizza Party. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. **Friday April 23 2010 Where: 5 Burlington New Haven Mo. Hous: 400048**

#### OBITUARY: JAMES HENRICKS

You know who you are! You're back! I just made back to back meetings. Come and see 10 events with a 10:11 Pizza Party. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. **Friday April 23 2010 Where: 5 Burlington New Haven Mo. Hous: 400048**

#### STREETWALK

You know who you are! You're back! I just made back to back meetings. Come and see 10 events with a 10:11 Pizza Party. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. **Friday April 23 2010 Where: 5 Burlington New Haven Mo. Hous: 400048**

#### KITTAR

You know who you are! You're back! I just made back to back meetings. Come and see 10 events with a 10:11 Pizza Party. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. **Friday April 23 2010 Where: 5 Burlington New Haven Mo. Hous: 400048**

#### IL

You know who you are! You're back! I just made back to back meetings. Come and see 10 events with a 10:11 Pizza Party. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. **Friday April 23 2010 Where: 5 Burlington New Haven Mo. Hous: 400048**

#### UNBELLIED ON A SUNDAY

You know who you are! You're back! I just made back to back meetings. Come and see 10 events with a 10:11 Pizza Party. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. **Friday April 23 2010 Where: 5 Burlington New Haven Mo. Hous: 400048**

#### APPROXIM

You know who you are! You're back! I just made back to back meetings. Come and see 10 events with a 10:11 Pizza Party. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. **Friday April 23 2010 Where: 5 Burlington New Haven Mo. Hous: 400048**

#### GOVERNMENT AT 10:11

You know who you are! You're back! I just made back to back meetings. Come and see 10 events with a 10:11 Pizza Party. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. **Friday April 23 2010 Where: 5 Burlington New Haven Mo. Hous: 400048**

#### YOUR TALK HOME JAIL

You know who you are! You're back! I just made back to back meetings. Come and see 10 events with a 10:11 Pizza Party. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. **Friday April 23 2010 Where: 5 Burlington New Haven Mo. Hous: 400048**

just two weeks. Drawing is a much better idea than just two weeks. Drawing is a much better idea than just two weeks. Drawing is a much better idea than just two weeks. **Monday April 23 2010 Where: 5 Burlington New Haven Mo. Hous: 400048**

#### LET THE RIGHT ONE IN

You know who you are! You're back! I just made back to back meetings. Come and see 10 events with a 10:11 Pizza Party. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. **Monday April 23 2010 Where: 5 Burlington New Haven Mo. Hous: 400048**

#### SHIRT PUNCH

You know who you are! You're back! I just made back to back meetings. Come and see 10 events with a 10:11 Pizza Party. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. **Monday April 23 2010 Where: 5 Burlington New Haven Mo. Hous: 400048**

Your guide to love and lust...

# mistress



#### Dear Mistress,

My friends convinced me to write you about this experience I had recently with a one-night stand -- he had the weirdest habit when he was about to orgasm. During the roughly 10 hours we spent together, we had two faces. Both times, as he was getting ready to come, he would turn his face and grunt out, "two, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10." When he hit 10 he orgasmed. I didn't ask him about it, and he didn't mention anything about this weird habit. I know that everyone has an O-face they make during orgasm, but it is normal to have a ritual like counting to 10?

#### Dear Habitual Ritual,

While counting out loud is one of the more unique orgasm stats I've heard, it could be worse. Remember when Charlotte from "Sex and the City" had sex with the guy who couldn't orgasm without saying, "We're taking it, you taking what?" By comparison, counting to 10 is like tame.

It's perfectly natural to develop orgasm rituals, and many of these habits are started from a young age. It's reasonable to think that your guy has been counting to 10 for as long as he's been masturbating. As an adult, he may have trouble achieving his desired orgasm without counting. Orgasm rituals are more common than you think -- from painting and toes to talking up the sheets into one's first, most of us have something weird we're getting off. An informal poll of my friends this week revealed stories of mouth painting, breath holding and chanting, "Oh my God, oh my God, oh my God."

All in all, your guy's habit is totally normal. However, I don't understand why he wouldn't count backwards from 10 to one -- certainly a countdown is more dramatic than a count up. "Three, two, one, blast-off!"

#### Need advice?

Email me at [advice@sevendaysvt.com](mailto:advice@sevendaysvt.com) or share your own advice on my blog at [sevendaysvt.com/blogs](http://sevendaysvt.com/blogs)

**THURSDAY BUNGLY BANGS AT 10PM**  
You know who you are! You're back! I just made back to back meetings. Come and see 10 events with a 10:11 Pizza Party. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. **Thursday April 23 2010 Where: 5 Burlington New Haven Mo. Hous: 400048**

#### YOU HEAR BUNGLY BANGS AT 10PM

You know who you are! You're back! I just made back to back meetings. Come and see 10 events with a 10:11 Pizza Party. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. **Thursday April 23 2010 Where: 5 Burlington New Haven Mo. Hous: 400048**

#### RE-UNION REUNION

You know who you are! You're back! I just made back to back meetings. Come and see 10 events with a 10:11 Pizza Party. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. I was there, you were there, and they were there. **Thursday April 23 2010 Where: 5 Burlington New Haven Mo. Hous: 400048**

# SKIRACK

Burlington's Community Bike Shop

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**bike  
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